# THE BRIGGS & DARTTS

*Biographical sketches following three generations of the Briggs / Dartt family tree, whose branches reached across nineteenth- and early twentieth-century North America*

Glenn Hildreth Briggs · 1912–1959
Margaret Haworth Dartt · 1913–2006

Fred Henry Briggs · 1877–1930 Harvey Schuyler Dartt · 1866–1936
Lo Ella Hildreth · 1882–1958 Ella May (Chandler) Haworth · 1873–1963

William Archer Briggs · 1854–1911 Edward Harvey Schuyler Dartt · 1824–1903
Emma Louise Peck · 1854–1930 Lucretia Brooks · 1840–1876
William Coleman Hildreth · 1845–1911 Howard Horton Haworth · 1840–1911
Mary McCann · 1849–1929 Margaret Frances Shelton · 1846–1936

Elbridge Gerry Chandler · 1827–1901 Caroline Wookey · 1842–1894
Alexander Hamilton Briggs · 1832–1894 Rachel J. Lambert · 1831–1886

*Compiled from contemporary newspaper coverage, vital records, and family oral history*

Michael P. Briggs · 2026

# THE BRIGGS & DARTTS

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First Edition, 2026

*Compiled from contemporary newspaper coverage, vital records, and family oral history. Every effort has been made to verify names, dates, and places against original sources; corrections and additional documentation are welcomed for future editions.*

## ABOUT THIS COLLECTION

Attached are biographical sketches of eighteen individuals across three generations of the Briggs / Hildreth family tree, with roots in the Briggs, Hildreth, Dartt, Haworth, Chandler, Peck, McCann, and Shelton lines. Their lives trace three separate nineteenth-century migration streams that converged in Minneapolis, Minnesota — a Michigan line of farmers, constables, and justices of the peace radiating out from Wayne County; a Wisconsin-and-Minnesota line of nurserymen, surveyors, and civic leaders centered on Owatonna, Minnesota; and an Indiana-Iowa-Maine line of Civil War veterans, harness makers, and merchants.

The material is drawn primarily from contemporary newspaper articles. Small-town papers across Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa, Maine, and Wisconsin recorded court cases, lodge and church notices, social visits, weddings, illnesses, and obituaries in a level of detail no other source matches. These are supplemented by vital and genealogical records — birth, marriage, and death certificates; census returns; federal land patents; Civil War enlistment and pension files; adoption deeds; and probate records. Family letters, gravestone photographs, and a descendant's own genealogical research fill in further detail where they survive.

The biographies are not complete. Gaps remain in early childhoods, in years without newspaper coverage, and in unresolved questions such as the exact combat wound that hospitalized Howard Horton Haworth during the Civil War and the relationship Elbridge Chandler had with Ella Haworth after the adoption.

Several individuals beyond the principal subjects are also included:

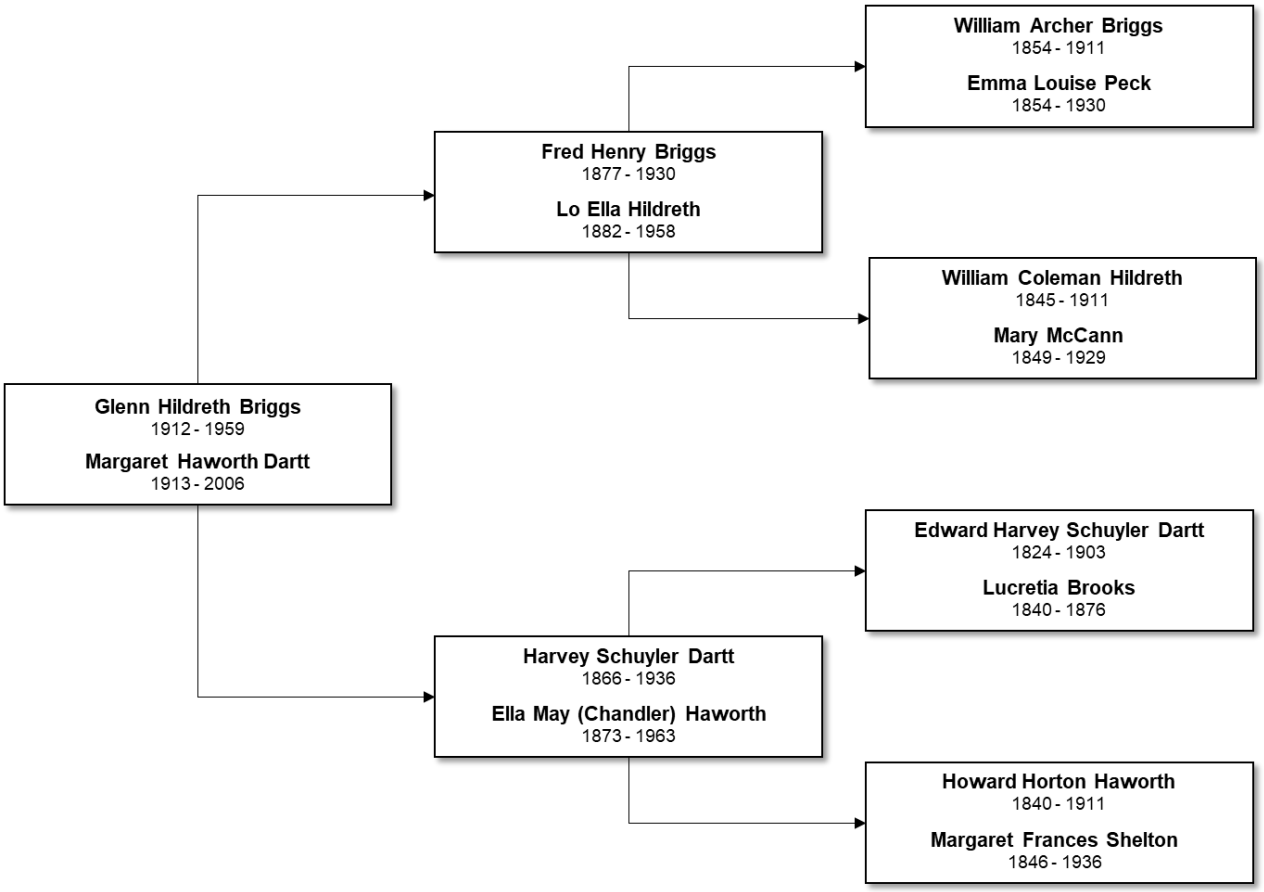
- **Elbridge Gerry Chandler** and Caroline S. Foote are the birth parents of Ella May (Chandler) Haworth. Elbridge rode with the 1st Maine Cavalry through Gettysburg, the Overland Campaign, and Appomattox, and carried a Malvern Hill injury for the rest of his life. After Caroline died in 1879, he placed his two youngest children with neighboring Iowa families.
- **Caroline "Carrie" Wookey** crossed the Atlantic from Somerset, England, as a six-year-old in 1849 and grew up in the farm townships of southern Wisconsin. In 1876 she married the widowed nurseryman Edward Harvey Schuyler Dartt, raised his household of stepchildren at Owatonna, Minnesota, and became one of the town's more popular hostesses before her death in 1894.

- **Alexander Hamilton Briggs** served Battle Creek, Michigan, as ward constable and, for four terms, as Justice of the Peace — surviving a beating and an escaping prisoner in 1876 to preside for two decades over the city's bigamy trials, coroner's inquests, and weddings alike.
- **Rachel J. Lambert** married Alexander Hamilton Briggs in her father's Livonia farmhouse in 1853 and followed his moves through three Michigan townships before settling at Battle Creek in 1872, where she managed the household of a sitting Justice of the Peace until her death from cancer in 1886.

The documents are intended as biographical summaries — enough to know each person as an individual — rather than exhaustive genealogies.

# BRIGGS / DARTT FAMILY TREE

*Three generations descending from Glenn Hildreth Briggs and Margaret Haworth Dartt*



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# WORKING METHODS

*A note on sources, evidence, and editorial conventions used throughout this book*

## SOURCES USED

These biographies draw on three broad categories of material, weighted in the order given below when evidence conflicts.

- **Newspaper coverage.** The primary source for most of the narrative detail in this book. Small-town papers across Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa, Maine, and Wisconsin routinely recorded court cases, lodge and church notices, social visits, weddings, illnesses, and obituaries in a level of detail no other source matches. Where a paper is quoted or closely paraphrased, its name and date are given in the text or in the Sources list at the end of each chapter.
- **Vital, legal, and government records.** Birth, marriage, and death certificates; census returns; federal land patents; Civil War enlistment and pension files; adoption deeds; and probate records.
- **Family letters, gravestone photographs, and descendant research.** Family letters, gravestone photographs, and a descendant's own genealogical research supply texture, motive, and private detail unavailable anywhere else — but see the note on reliability below.

## HOW CONFLICTING EVIDENCE IS HANDLED

Documentary evidence — vital records, contemporary newspaper reporting, government filings — is treated as authoritative for dates, places, names, and sequences of events. Family recollection and descendant research are treated as reliable for texture, motive, and detail, but subordinate to documentary evidence whenever the two disagree on a specific fact.

Where a discrepancy could not be resolved — a conflicting date, an unverified claim, an account that runs against the paper trail — the biography notes the conflict directly rather than silently choosing one version.

> *The aim throughout is not to manufacture certainty where none exists, but to show the reader exactly how confident each claim is and why — so that a fact drawn from a signed government document and a fact recalled decades later in family memory are never presented with the same weight.*

## EDITORIAL CONVENTIONS

- **Vital Statistics table.** Each biography opens with a table of the core genealogical facts — birth, death, burial, parents, marriage, children, and siblings — pulled directly from the vital record where one exists.
- **Indented italic passages.** Text set off in an indented block with a rule at the left margin is editorial or contextual commentary. It is clearly distinguished from the narrative voice and from directly quoted material.
- **Direct quotations.** Letters and other verbatim material are quoted directly and attributed to their source at the point of use.
- **"Also known as" line.** Name variants encountered across records — nicknames, alternate spellings, married names — are listed beneath each subject's title so readers can recognize the same person under a different name in another source.
- **Sources list.** Each biography closes with a categorized list of the specific records and publications consulted, organized as Vital and Legal Records, Newspaper Sources, and Family and Genealogical Sources, so that any claim in the text can be traced back to its origin.

## ACKNOWLEDGED GAPS

These biographies are not, and do not claim to be, complete. Gaps remain in early childhoods, in years without newspaper coverage, and in a small number of specific unresolved questions noted at the relevant point in the text — among them the exact combat wound that hospitalized Howard Horton Haworth during the Civil War and the relationship Elbridge Chandler had with Ella Haworth after the adoption. Where the record is silent, this book stays silent rather than speculating.

The intent throughout is to give a biographical account of each person — enough to know them as an individual — rather than an exhaustive genealogy.

# GLENN HILDRETH BRIGGS

*Structural Assembler • Boy Scout Leader • Community Volunteer*

MINNESOTA • MISSOURI • CALIFORNIA

*Also known as: Glenn H. Briggs • Glen Briggs • Glen H. Briggs*

## VITAL STATISTICS

| | |
|---|---|
| **BORN** | 12 March 1912, Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota |
| **DIED** | 19 August 1959, Wofford Heights, Kern County, California (age 47) |
| **BURIAL** | Oakwood Cemetery, Chatsworth, Los Angeles County, California |
| **FATHER** | Fred Henry Briggs (1877 - 1930) |
| **MOTHER** | Lo Ella Hildreth (1882 - 1958) |
| **MARRIED** | June 23, 1934, Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota, to Margaret Haworth Dartt (1913 - 2006) |
| **CHILDREN** | Glenn H. Briggs II (1936 - 2015)<br>Walter Paul Briggs (1938 - 1989)<br>Bruce Blaine Briggs (1940 - 2024)<br>Patrick Michael Briggs (1941 - 2021)<br>Christy Link Briggs (1950 - 2024) |
| **SIBLINGS** | Mary Louise Briggs (1908 - 1984)<br>Newell Frederick Briggs (1917 - 1920)<br>Paul Archer Briggs (1923 - 1975) |

## FAMILY BACKGROUND

Glenn Hildreth Briggs was born on March 12, 1912 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the second of four children of Fred Henry Briggs and Lo Ella Hildreth. The middle name Hildreth was his mother's maiden name — a common practice in the period that placed the mother's family permanently in the record — and it is by the combination Glenn H. Briggs that he is identified in nearly all newspaper and official sources throughout his life. His birth is documented by two surviving records: an original Return of Birth filed March 13, 1912 and a Supplemental Birth Report filed June 26, 1939, the latter submitted by his mother Lo Ella H. Briggs after his full name was formally confirmed.

His father, Fred Henry Briggs, was born in Battle Creek, Michigan, in 1877. The Return of Birth gives his age as 34 at the time of Glenn's birth and his occupation as "Commercial Instructor." Fred Henry Briggs died in 1930, when Glenn was eighteen. His mother, Lo Ella Hildreth, was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in 1882, a year younger than her husband. She survived Glenn by one year, dying in 1958.

Glenn had three siblings: an older sister, Mary Louise (born 1908), a younger brother, Newell Frederick (1917–1920, dying in infancy), and a younger brother, Paul Archer (1923–1975). Paul would later move to Chicago, and Mary Louise — identified in Glenn's obituary as "Mrs. Clarence Andersen of Minnesota" — remained in the Minneapolis area. An early photograph of the three Briggs children, probably dating to around 1918, shows Glenn with his older sister and an infant sibling (Newell).

> *The northeast Minneapolis neighborhood where the Briggs family settled — centered on Taylor Street NE, where they lived from 1916 to at least 1932 — was a working-class district with a strong Scandinavian and Eastern European immigrant population. The YMCA operated an extensive network of branches and programs there, and it was almost certainly through the northeast branch that Glenn first encountered the youth organizations that would define his volunteer life.*

## MINNEAPOLIS: YOUTH, SINGING, AND EARLY LIFE (1912–1934)

The earliest newspaper mention of Glenn Briggs dates to March 1916, when the Minneapolis Journal noted that "Glenn H. Briggs, little son of Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Briggs, 2317 Buchanan Street NE, celebrated his fourth birthday anniversary Saturday afternoon. Eight little friends were present." While it was just a brief, small-town social item typical of the era's local family coverage, the notice firmly establishes both the full name and address he would use for the rest of his life.

By the summer of 1926, a fourteen-year-old Glenn appeared in the Minneapolis Star as one of 85 northeast district boys attending a week-long YMCA camp at Chicago City, where he enjoyed swimming, boating, and hiking from Tent No. 9 at Camp Icaghowan. A year later, the Star Tribune playfully featured the fifteen-year-old as a "rooter king" who led spirited cheers for the Pushmobile editor during a city-wide Pushmobile association meeting.

Music was another early passion. On July 28, 1927, the Star Tribune noted that 15-year-old Glenn sang bass in a male quartet competing in the Tribune community sing contest at

Windom Park. That same summer, the August 29 edition of the Minneapolis Journal identified him as a northeast Minneapolis Hi-Y officer traveling to Camp Brazhowan at Chicago City for the annual YMCA leadership training conference. His 1927 Edison High School yearbook, The Edison Wizard, also pictures him in the front row of the Glee Club.

At age seventeen, Glenn enlisted in the Minnesota Naval Militia on July 16, 1929, serving as a Fireman 3rd Class in the 46th Division, 9th Battalion in Minneapolis. His surviving volunteer enlistment papers describe him as 5 feet 5 inches tall, weighing 170 pounds, with sandy hair, a ruddy complexion, and hazel eyes. The examining surgeon certified him as "a fit subject for Naval service."

> *The Minnesota Naval Militia was a state defense force separate from the regular U.S. Navy that provided naval training during the interwar period. Enlisting at seventeen while still a student was common for young men seeking military structure and camaraderie outside the regular armed forces. Glenn's 1929 enlistment provides some of the earliest evidence of the discipline and outdoor, physical focus that would later define his work with the Boy Scouts.*

By 1930, Glenn was employed as a clerk for Cordalis & Lund in Minneapolis. His frequent moves during the early 1930s—living at 3015 1st Avenue S. (1933), 2838 Cedar Avenue (1934), 4011 Thomas Avenue N. (1935), and 806 Thornton (1936)—reflect the typical pattern of a young man renting across the city as his circumstances changed. His employment in the mid-1930s shifted from working with the Volunteers of America (1934–35) to a role as an assembler (1936), foreshadowing the manufacturing career he would later pursue in California.

Between those years, one significant chapter unfolded that local address and employment records miss: Glenn's service in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). According to his CCC Individual Record (ID #CC-7-4092), he applied on June 2, 1933, through the Minneapolis Division of Public Relief. He listed his previous occupation as U.S. Naval Reserve service and noted he had been unemployed since March 1933. Enrolled under the Emergency Conservation Work Act, Glenn took his oath at Fort Snelling on June 3 and completed two weeks of reception duty there. On June 17, he was transferred to Camp S-52 in Cusson, near Orr in northern Minnesota, where he served until receiving an honorable discharge on March 31, 1934, at the end of his term. Both his performance and character were rated "Excellent." Throughout his service, he sent a monthly allotment of $25 to his mother, Loella Briggs, at her 1st Avenue South address.

> *Established by the Emergency Conservation Work Act on March 31, 1933, the Civilian Conservation Corps put unemployed young men to work on natural resource projects nationwide. In exchange, enrollees received food, housing, clothing, and a $30 monthly wage, most of which they were required to send home to their families. Because Glenn enrolled just weeks after the program was authorized, he was part of the CCC's vanguard wave. Camp S-52 in Cusson was among Minnesota's earliest CCC operations, situated in the timber and lake regions of Koochiching and St. Louis counties. Interestingly, Glenn's CCC application listing his previous occupation as "U.S. Naval Reserve service" provides the only surviving record that frames his Naval Militia service in this manner.*

The instability of this period—marked by four addresses in four years, a succession of unrelated jobs, and a stint with the Volunteers of America—takes on a deeper meaning when viewed against the backdrop of the Great Depression, which devastated Minneapolis and the nation from 1930 onward. With local unemployment peaking above 25 percent in the early 1930s, those fortunate enough to find work frequently bounced between whatever jobs were available, from clerical work and charitable organizations to light manufacturing. Also, the death of Glenn's father, Fred, in 1930 had removed the family anchor once provided by their Taylor Street home. The fact that Glenn managed to remain steadily employed, marry in 1934, and consistently participate in civic and youth organizations reveals a resilience that records often fail to capture.

On June 23, 1934, Glenn Hildreth Briggs married Margaret Haworth Dartt in Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota. Their marriage certificate, certified by the Clerk of the District Court, notes that both were Hennepin County residents, and they were wed by a Methodist minister.

## MINNESOTA: WORK, MARRIAGE, AND WARTIME (1934–1944)

The mid-to-late 1930s find Glenn and Margaret setting up a household in Minneapolis while Glenn continued in various employment. The Depression had not lifted by the time they married in 1934 — nationally, unemployment was still above 20 percent that year — and the couple's early married years coincided with the last difficult phase of the crisis before the wartime economy took hold.

Nine months into the marriage, on Monday, 11 March 1935, a fire swept through their home at 5711 Twentieth Avenue South in Minneapolis. The Star Tribune covered it the following day with two photographs on page four: one showing the couple surveying the wreckage,

caption noting they had managed to save some of their effects; the other showing Glenn cradling their wire-haired terrier, Skeets. The Briggses had believed Skeets had perished in the fire. The dog had in fact sought safety underneath the house, where Glenn found him and pulled him out after the flames had died down — scorched but alive. The Star Tribune ran the rescue photograph under the headline "Dog Has Hot Time, But Lives."

A city directory entry for 1937 places him briefly at Monticello, Wright County, outside the city entirely, before the family reappears in St. Peter, Nicollet County, by 1940. There Glenn was working as an Attendant at the State Asylum for the Insane, a position that was stable, institution-backed government employment of the kind many Depression-era workers sought when private sector work remained precarious. The 1940 federal census confirms this address and occupation. His Draft Card, registered October 16, 1940 at St. Peter, gives his employer as the State Asylum and his nearest relative as Margaret.

> *The trajectory from clerk to Volunteers of America worker to asylum attendant is a recognizable Depression-era pattern: a man of some education and organizational ability moving toward whatever institutional employment offered security, rather than advancing in a single trade or profession. The State Asylum at St. Peter was one of Minnesota's larger public institutions and a significant employer in Nicollet County. That Glenn was there in 1940, with a young family and two sons already born (Glenn Jr. in 1936, Walter in 1938), suggests the priority was stability over ambition. It would be the war economy, and California's aerospace industry, that finally gave him a trade he would hold for the rest of his working life.*

At some point between 1940 and 1944, the family made the decision to move west. Voter registration records place Glenn and Margaret at 21048 Gresham Street, Canoga Park, Los Angeles County, California, for both 1944 and 1946. A subsequent registration in 1947–1948 shows them at Muroc, Kern County (Apt. 29-C, Box 145) — Muroc being the desert community adjacent to the Army Air Field that would later become Edwards Air Force Base. The wartime and immediate postwar years clearly moved the family around southern California in ways that no single document captures completely.

> *Glenn was working in the Southern California aerospace industry by the early 1940s — part of the wartime boom that drew hundreds of thousands of workers to the region's aircraft plants. His residence at Muroc in 1947–1948 is consistent with continued work in that world: Muroc lay adjacent to the Army Air Field (later Edwards Air Force Base), a center of military aviation activity that supported a substantial civilian workforce, and the group photographs of Glenn among colleagues posing in front of a U.S. Air Force jet date from this period. By the time the family*

> *settled permanently in Canoga Park, his position as a structural assembler at Northrup Aircraft's Norair Division was the continuation of a career in aerospace already more than a decade old.*

## THE DESERT YEARS: MUROC AIR BASE (1946–1948)

The family settled into the civilian housing project outside the main gate of Muroc Air Base — a place locals called "Kerosene Flats." Their unit was 29C in a khaki-colored quadruplex of thin gypsum board: two bedrooms, a bathroom, kitchen, and small dining area, with a kerosene-operated stove that gave the entire settlement its distinctive smell. Behind the apartment stretched rows of kerosene and oil drums that supplied the community; across the street lay a sewage-scented water pond, train tracks, and a small depot. A wooden water tower provided the water supply. Beyond all of this stretched the Mojave Desert — sand, sagebrush, broken glass, and tin cans as far as the boys could see.

Glenn's role at the base, as his sons later recalled it, was that of a safety engineer: he prepared experimental aircraft for Air Force evaluation, testing systems and certifying planes as airworthy before test pilots took them up. The boys understood little of the specifics — the work was secret — but Walter remembered it plainly: "We just knew of him as a safety engineer, but he tested systems and checked them off and made sure the plane was flyable, and he checked it out before the pilot actually took it up." It was work that placed the family at the center of American aviation history. Among the aircraft Glenn's crew worked on were early jets the boys knew by nicknames — "The Flying Milk Bottle," "The Comet," "The Scorpion" — and they regularly watched B-29s carry the Bell X-1 aloft and drop it like a bomb at altitude, the rocket plane's pilot catching the motor in freefall. On one occasion (October 14, 1947), during a routine haircut at the base barbershop, the boys heard the first “sonic boom”. The loudspeakers then announced that Captain Chuck Yeager had just broken the sound barrier.

> *Muroc Air Base took its name from the Corum brothers who had homesteaded the land — "Muroc" being "Corum" spelled backward. It had been established by the Navy as a bombing training facility during the war, complete with a wire mesh silhouette of a cruiser on the dry lake bed used for target practice; when the target was eventually removed, five unexploded bombs were found hung up in the wires. By 1946 it had become the primary site for experimental jet aircraft testing, attracting a mix of combat veterans, civilian engineers, and test pilots that made the community around the base unlike anywhere else in postwar America.*

Around 1947, the family moved again — approximately twenty miles from the main gate to a property they called "The Ranch," eighty acres of desert land that brought greater isolation.

The period at the ranch was challenging for Glenn's family. When Glenn Sr. was delayed in Los Angeles dealing with a problem with the family's 1945 Hudson, the family ran through their food supplies entirely, eventually reduced to dog food before a coworker named Blacky arrived with provisions. Glenn Jr. recalled the moment with clarity: "Here comes Blacky, and he's down with food, and he hands me an orange. This was heaven."

> *The oral histories recorded by Glenn Jr., Walter, and Patrick Briggs — the source for this section — preserve an unusually detailed picture of what daily life looked like for a civilian family at one of America's most secretive postwar installations. Their route to school from the ranch took them past Pancho Barnes' Happy Bottom Ranch, where the pioneering aviator tended her own kerosene runway lamps in Western clothes; Barnes' legal dispute with the base commander was already underway during the years the Briggs family knew her. The desert years ended when the family moved to St. Louis, before returning permanently to California.*

## MISSOURI: AIRPORT TOWNSHIP (1949–1950)

Family records place the Briggs household briefly in Airport Township, St. Louis County, Missouri, in 1949 and into 1951— living at 9325 Harold Drive. This St. Louis interlude was short, and the family returned to California within two years. No newspaper record of this period has been located.

## CALIFORNIA: CANOGA PARK AND THE WORLD OF SCOUTING (1950–1959)

By 1950 at the latest, Glenn and Margaret Briggs had settled permanently in Canoga Park in the San Fernando Valley, Los Angeles County. Their address — 7017 Topanga Canyon Boulevard — is consistently given in newspaper records from the mid-1950s onward, and it appears on his death certificate as his last usual residence. Voter registration in 1954 confirms this address. By this point Glenn was working as a structural assembler for the Norair Division of Northrup Aircraft Company, building airplanes at a facility in the Valley that was part of California's postwar aerospace boom.

> *The Norair Division of Northrup Aircraft produced military jet aircraft in the 1950s, including components for the F-89 Scorpion interceptor and later the F-5 series. Assembly work of the kind*

> *Glenn performed was skilled manual labor requiring precision and technical training — not unskilled factory work.*

But if aircraft assembly was Glenn's livelihood, Boy Scouting was his vocation. The newspaper record of his California years is dominated, to an extent unusual even for dedicated volunteers, by his work with the San Fernando Valley Boy Scout Council. By the early 1950s he was neighborhood commissioner for Canoga Park — the key adult leadership role at the district level, responsible for supporting individual troop operations and training unit leaders.

The Van Nuys News of February 11, 1954 found him serving as Scribe in the Order of DeMolay, Canoga Park chapter — one of the Masonic-affiliated youth organizations with which he was also affiliated. By December 1955, he was listed among the adult advisors for a Valley Scout "Camporally" hosted by the Order of the Arrow's Walika Lodge, an honor camping organization within Boy Scouting. That same year he was named as a commissioner at a Cub Pack 312 Blue and Gold Dinner at Orcutt Park, where he delivered the pack's charter to the Canoga Park Elementary School PTA.

In August 1956, Glenn led the San Fernando Valley delegation to the Order of the Arrow's 41st national conference at the University of Indiana — taking three of his sons, Bruce, Pat, and Walter, on the 5,000-mile round trip. The Citizen-News ran a photograph of Glenn crouching to photograph his three sons in Scout regalia before they departed; the caption called it "time for a little picture taking" before the caravan set off for Bloomington. The Van Nuys News reported that Glenn, as delegation leader and adviser of Walika Lodge, had recently been taken into the Order's highest membership tier, Vigil Honor — reserved for those who have given exceptional, unselfish service to Scouting over an extended period.

The Silver Beaver Award followed in October 1956 — the highest honor a local Scout council can bestow on an adult volunteer, symbolizing exceptional unselfish service. Glenn received it at the San Fernando Valley Council's 33rd annual council award dinner, alongside five other recipients. The Valley Times reported the ceremony in detail; Congressman Edgar W. Hiestand presented the council with a gavel that had been used in the House of Representatives and Congressman Joe Holt gave the council a flag that had been flown over the U.S. Capitol. The Van Nuys News ran a photograph of the six recipients.

> *The Silver Beaver is a national BSA award given by local councils — it can be conferred on any registered adult Scouter who has made a significant impact through service to youth. Receiving it*

> *alongside the Vigil Honor of the Order of the Arrow places Glenn among a very small group of adult leaders who reached the top recognition tiers in two parallel threads of the Scouting organization simultaneously. His obituary's description of him as "prominent in Scout work" understates the depth of what the record shows.*

The newspaper coverage of his Scout years is remarkably consistent in the picture it draws. He appears at Eagle Scout courts of honor presenting awards, at Cub pack dinners giving speeches, at Order of the Arrow camporees leading Indian dances in regalia, at PTA meetings presenting charters. His son is mentioned in the same articles running Indian folklore performances for the Order of the Arrow, Topanga Clan — the Briggs family's Scout involvement was not just Glenn's but a family enterprise.

A 1957 clipping from the Valley Times shows "Mrs. Glen Briggs" — Margaret — listed as health chairman for the Canoga Park Elementary School PTA poster contest judging panel, alongside safety and art chairmen. Both Glenn and Margaret were woven into the institutional fabric of Canoga Park's civic life. A March 1957 Van Nuys News item records him as guest speaker at the Cub Scout Pack 100 Blue and Gold dinner at Canoga Park Community Methodist Church. By that same year he was also serving on the San Fernando Valley Council's neighborhood commissioner staff and presenting a Cub pack charter to the school PTA on behalf of the council.

Glenn was also an instructor in the American Red Cross and a Vigil Honor member of the Order of the Arrow, B.S.A. — details recorded in his published obituary and reinforced throughout the clippings in the family record.

## DEATH: AUGUST 19, 1959

In early August 1959, while attending Boy Scout Camp Whitsett with his sons near Johnsondale, California, Glenn suffered a heart attack. He passed away a few weeks later on August 19 in Wofford Heights, Kern County, at the age of forty-seven. His death certificate attributed his passing to a myocardial infarction spanning approximately four weeks. Following his death, he was buried at Oakwood Cemetery in Chatsworth, Los Angeles County.

Local tributes highlighted his deep commitment to his community and youth. His funeral notice remembered him as a Minnesota native who had spent the last nine years in California working as a structural assembler for the Norair Division of Northrop Aircraft Co. The Van

Nuys News published a full obituary headlined, "Scout Worker Glenn Briggs Dies; Lived in West Valley." By framing his life around his dedication to local scouting, the newspaper captured the exact legacy his community would have immediately recognized.

## SUMMARY

Glenn Hildreth Briggs was a Minneapolis-born educator's son who remade himself in southern California as a skilled aircraft assembler and, simultaneously, as one of the San Fernando Valley's most committed volunteer Scout leaders. He initially arrived in California sometime around 1944, settled in Canoga Park, built a career assembling military jet aircraft for Northrup's Norair Division, and devoted the remaining decade of his life to the Boy Scout organization with an intensity that the Valley newspapers tracked in remarkable detail.

The record he left is, in a sense, two records running in parallel. The formal one — draft card, death certificate, birth record, marriage certificate, enlistment paper — traces the standard outline of a mid-century American man: born in Minneapolis, married in 1934, worked in war-adjacent industries, died too young of a heart attack. The newspaper record is something else: a sustained, dense chronicle of a man who showed up — at courts of honor, at pack dinners, at Camporallies, at national Order of the Arrow conferences, at PTA meetings with his wife. He received the Silver Beaver in 1956 and the Vigil Honor of the Order of the Arrow, two of the highest recognitions adult Scouting offered. He took all three of his older sons to a national conference in Indiana in 1956, driving a 5,000-mile round trip.

He died at forty-seven, which was too young. The Van Nuys News called him a Scout worker. That was accurate as far as it went. But the five sons who ushered at each other's weddings, the three boys who traveled across the country in Scout regalia with their father to Indiana, the photograph of him crouching with a camera while his sons stood tall in their uniforms — those details speak to something the headline could not quite hold.

## SOURCES

### Vital and Legal Records

Certificate of Death — Glenn Hildreth Briggs; State of California, Department of Public Health; District No. 1277, Certificate No. 7500, Local Registration No. 1277; cause of death: ventricular fibrillation (ventricular tachycardia, myocardial infarction); physician: Dr. Dewitte T. Boyd, M.D., Bakersfield; burial: Oakwood Cemetery, Chatsworth; Payne & Son, funeral director; filed 21 August 1959.

Return of Birth — Minnesota Division of Vital Statistics, Registration District: Hennepin, City of Minneapolis; No. 37439; date of birth: March 12, 1912; father: Fred Henry Briggs (age 34, birthplace: Mich.); mother: Lo Ella Hildreth (age 29, birthplace: Mich.); address: 2317 Buchanan St. NE; filed 13 March 1912.

Supplemental Birth Report — Minneapolis, Minn.; full name: Glenn Hildreth Briggs; date of birth: March 12, 1912; father: Fred Henry Briggs; mother's maiden name: Lo Ella Hildreth; residence: 2810 Taylor St. NE; signed: Lo Ella H. Briggs; filed 26 June 1939.

Volunteer Enlistment / Enlistment Paper — Glenn Hildreth Briggs, Minnesota Naval Militia, 46th Division, 9th Battalion, Fireman 3rd class; enlisted 16 July 1929, Minneapolis, Hennepin County; age 18 [sic — 17]; physical: height 5'5", weight 170 lbs., sand hair, ruddy complexion, hazel eyes; signed Lt. H.N. Van Orman, USNR; certified fit for service by examining surgeon.

Individual Record, Civilian Conservation Corps — Glenn Briggs; CCC ID #CC 7-4092; date of birth: March 12, 1912; home address: 3015 1st Ave So., Minneapolis, MN; nearest relative: Loella Briggs (mother); previous occupation: U.S. Naval Reserve service; unemployed since March 1933; applied June 2, 1933 through Division of Public Relief, Minneapolis; enrolled under Emergency Conservation Work Act; oath signed Fort Snelling, June 3, 1933. Service: Fort Snelling June 3–16, 1933 (reception duty); Camp S-52, Cusson/Orr, MN, June 17, 1933–March 31, 1934 (company duty). Performance and character ratings: Excellent. Monthly allotment: $25.00 to Loella Briggs. Discharge: March 31, 1934, honorable, expiration of term. Physical at enrollment: height 5 ft 4½ in, weight 182–185 lbs, blue eyes, light hair, fair complexion, vision and hearing 20/20. U.S. Government CCC Form.

Marriage Certificate (certified copy) — Glenn H. Briggs and Margaret H. Dartt; Hennepin County, Minnesota; 23 June 1934; married by minister of Methodist Church; recorded Marriage License and Certificate No. 375-60, Book 184, p. 81; certified by Clerk of District Court, Fourth Judicial District, Hennepin County.

Draft Registration Card — Benjamin [sic] Glenn Hildreth Briggs; St. Peter, Nicollet County, Minnesota; registered 16 October 1940; occupation: Attendant, State Asylum for the Insane, St. Peter, Minnesota; address: 601 W. Madison, St. Peter.

FamilySearch Profile — Glenn Hildreth Briggs; Person ID: KV4T-S28; accessed June 2026. Parents: Fred Henry Briggs (KJ52-QK8) and Lo Ella Hildreth (KJ52-QF3); spouse: Margaret Haworth Dartt (L89P-KHR); marriage 23 June 1934, Minneapolis.

## Newspaper Sources

The Minneapolis Journal (Minneapolis, Minnesota) • 12 Mar. 1916, p. 48 (Glenn H. Briggs 4th birthday) • 28 Jul. 1927, p. 6 (Windom Park community sing, Glenn Briggs bass in NE district quartet) • 29 Aug. 1927, p. 14 (Hi-Y Officers to Open Camp Today; Glenn Briggs among NE delegates)

The Minneapolis Star (Minneapolis, Minnesota) • 9 Aug. 1926, p. 7 (85 NE District Boys Take Over Chisago Y Camp; Glenn Briggs in Tent No. 9)

Star Tribune (Minneapolis, Minnesota) • 17 Jul. 1927, p. 9 (City-wide Pushmobile Association formed; Glen Briggs, 15-year-old rooter king, 2810 Taylor St. NE) • 28 Jul. 1927, p. 10 (Windom Park Scores 92 in Sing Contest; Glenn Briggs, 20, bass, NE district quartet) • 12 Mar. 1935, p. 4 ("Fire Leaves Wreckage of Home" / "Dog Has Hot Time, But Lives"; Mr. and Mrs. Glenn H. Briggs, 5711 Twentieth Ave. South; two photographs by Tribune Staff Photographer)

The Bakersfield Californian (Bakersfield, California) • 14 May 1947, p. 17 (School Trustees Election; Glenn H. Briggs listed as candidate at Standard, Muroc)

Van Nuys News and Valley Green Sheet (Van Nuys, California) • 11 Feb. 1954, p. 12 (Canoga Park DeMolay officers; Glen Briggs, scribe) • 7 Mar. 1957, p. 29 (Cub Scout Pack 100 annual Blue and Gold dinner; Glenn Briggs,

neighborhood Boy Scout commissioner, guest speaker) • 12 Oct. 1961, p. 127 (Tarzana Home Established by Patrick Michael Briggs; son of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn H. Briggs of Canoga Park) • 23 Aug. 1959, p. 4-A ("Scout Worker Glenn Briggs Dies; Lived in West Valley"; obituary)

The Van Nuys News (Van Nuys, California) • 23 Aug. 1956, p. 23 (Valley's Order of the Arrow Scouts Leave for Conference; Glenn Briggs, delegation leader and adviser, Walika Lodge; taken into Vigil Honor) • 28 Oct. 1956, p. 15 (Silver Beaver Award; photograph; Glenn H. Briggs among recipients)

Valley Times (Van Nuys/North Hollywood, California) • 1 Mar. 1956, p. 45 (Cub Scout Pack 312 annual Blue and Gold dinner; Glenn Briggs, neighborhood commissioner) • 13 Jun. 1956, p. 7 (Canoga Park PTA; Mmes. Glen Briggs, health chairman) • 19 Oct. 1956, p. 3 ("Boy Scout Leaders Win Silver Beaver"; full account of 33rd annual council dinner; photograph) • 30 Mar. 1957, p. 11 (Poster Prizes Won by Canoga Park Students; Mmes. Glen Briggs, health chairman, PTA judge)

The Los Angeles Times (Los Angeles, California) • 26 Aug. 1956, p. 149 ("7 Arrow Scouts Attend Parley"; Glenn Briggs, delegation leader and adviser, Walika Lodge)

Valley News (San Fernando Valley, California) • 24 Feb. 1957, p. 29 (Cub Scout Pack 312 Blue and Gold dinner; Glen Briggs and Mrs. Briggs; charter to Mrs. Greene) • c. 1955 (Scout Troop 168 Court of Honor; presentation by Scout Commissioner Glen Briggs) [undated clipping]

The Citizen-News (Hollywood, California) • c. Aug. 1956 (photograph: Glenn Briggs and three sons departing for Order of the Arrow 41st national conference, Indiana University) [undated clipping]

Unidentified California newspaper • c. Aug. 1959 (obituary/funeral notice: "Briggs, Glenn Hildreth"; graveside services, Oakwood Cemetery, Chatsworth, 24 Aug. 1959; Rev. David Sward officiating; Payne & Son Funeral Home) [clipping, source identified as probable Los Angeles area paper]

## Family and Genealogical Sources

The Edison Wizard, 1927 — Edison High School yearbook, Minneapolis, Minnesota; page showing Glee Club roster and photograph, front row: G. Briggs (Glenn Briggs). Source: family collection.

Funeral card / memorial program — Glenn Hildreth Briggs; March 12, 1912 – August 19, 1959; graveside services conducted by Payne & Son Funeral Home, Bakersfield, California, Monday, August 24, 11 a.m., Oakwood Cemetery, Chatsworth; Rev. David Sward officiating. Poem: "A Little Step Away" by O.J. Hanson. In Remembrance card: Payne & Son Funeral Home, Bakersfield, California. Source: family collection.

Enlistment paper (original) — Minnesota Naval Militia, Glenn Hildreth Briggs; 16 July 1929; physical record attached; handwritten signature. Source: family collection.

Photographs — Early childhood group portrait of three Briggs children (c. 1914–1916); infant portrait labeled "Glenn H. Briggs Jr., 1912–1959" verso; group photographs at U.S. Air Force aircraft (Muroc period, c. 1947–1948); newspaper photograph of Glenn with sons before departure to Indiana OA conference (1956); two photographs published in Star Tribune, 12 March 1935 — fire wreckage at 5711 Twentieth Ave. South, and Glenn holding Skeets after rescue. Source: family collection / newspaper archives.

Oral History — "The Briggs Family Desert Years: Life at Muroc Air Base, 1946–1948." Based on oral histories recorded by Glenn H. Briggs Jr., Walter Paul Briggs, and Patrick Michael Briggs. Compiled July 23, 2025. Covers the family's residence at Kerosene Flats (unit 27C), Muroc Air Base, and "The Ranch" (c. 1947–48); Glenn Sr.'s role as safety engineer on experimental aircraft; daily life, community, and desert adventures as recalled by the three sons. Primary source for the Desert Years section of this biography.

FamilySearch — Glenn Hildreth Briggs (KV4T-S28); accessed June 2026. Events, residences, and occupations drawn from Minneapolis City Directories (1912–1937), Voter Registration records (1944, 1946, 1947–1948, 1954), 1940 U.S. Federal Census, and FamilySearch family tree contributed by Briggs, Michael Patrick and joshuatysongray1. Note: some event entries carry zero supporting sources beyond the contributor annotation and should be treated as working genealogical notes rather than verified records.

# MARGARET HAWORTH DARTT

*Wife • Mother • Wartime Worker • Crossing Guard*

MINNESOTA • MISSOURI • CALIFORNIA • UTAH

*Also known as: Margaret Dartt • Mrs. Glenn H. Briggs • Margaret D. Briggs • Marge*

## VITAL STATISTICS

| | |
|---|---|
| **BORN** | March 8, 1913, Owatonna, Steele County, Minnesota |
| **DIED** | December 9, 2006, Sandy, Salt Lake County, Utah (age 93) |
| **BURIED** | Oakwood Cemetery, Chatsworth, Los Angeles, California |
| **FATHER** | Harvey Schuyler Dartt (1866 – 1936) |
| **MOTHER** | Sarah Newella May Chandler (1873 –1963) |
| **MARRIED** | June 23, 1934, Minneapolis, Minnesota, to Glenn Hildreth Briggs (1912–1959) |
| **CHILDREN** | Glenn Hildreth Briggs II (1936–2015)<br>Walter Paul Briggs (1938–1989)<br>Bruce Blaine Briggs (1940–2024)<br>Patrick Michael Briggs (1941–2021)<br>Christy Link Briggs (1950–2024) |
| **SIBLINGS** | Baby Dartt (1897–1897)<br>Mabel Lucretia Dartt (1899–1981)<br>Donna Emir Dartt (1900–1989)<br>Walter Scott Dartt (1902–1962)<br>Harvey Schuyler Dartt Jr. (1908–1997) |

## FAMILY BACKGROUND

Margaret Haworth Dartt was born on March 8, 1913, in Owatonna, Steele County, Minnesota, the youngest of six children born to Harvey Schuyler Dartt and Sarah Newella May Chandler. She was born into a family of some civic standing: her father Harvey was a civil engineer by occupation (as recorded on the birth certificate) and would later serve as mayor of Owatonna. The family was Methodist. She grew up at 2747 Seventeenth Avenue South in Minneapolis, the address that appears across all her pre-marriage newspaper notices.

She had four siblings who survived childhood: her sister Mabel (who married a Gasner), her sister Donna (who married a Botts), her brother Walter Scott, and her brother Harvey Jr. A baby born in 1897 did not survive. Her father Harvey S. Dartt died in May 1936 at the age of 69; the Star Tribune obituary noted he had been one-time mayor of Owatonna, and that among his surviving children was "Mrs. Margaret H. Briggs" — by then two years married and known in Minneapolis under her married name.

## MINNEAPOLIS: GROWING UP (1913–1934)

Margaret came of age in Minneapolis in the 1920s and early 1930s — a city defined, in those years, by the rhythms of the Great Depression as much as by any other social force. She attended South High School, located at 2420 Cedar Avenue, and was known there by the nickname "Marge." Her senior yearbook entry records her activities as: Band, Blue Triangle, Torchbearers, Pegasus, Fiction, and Class Play. The yearbook verse beside her photograph read: "Friendly and helpful, lovely and sweet, / The sight of 'Marge' makes the day complete."

The newspaper record catches her early. In October 1927, when she was about fourteen years old, her name appeared in a Star Tribune list of community fund canvassers in her district of Minneapolis — "Margaret Dartt, 2747 Seventeenth avenue south" — placing her among fifteen hundred women taking part in the annual Community Fund drive. In December 1930, the Minneapolis Journal noticed her in the cast of South High's production of "The Poor Nut," a J.C. and Elliot Nugent comedy about college life. In January 1933, the Star Tribune recorded her as hostess to the M. B. M. Social Club at her home on Seventeenth Avenue — a bimonthly meeting of a small group of young women who were also planning a sleigh ride.

She graduated from South High and, like many young women of her generation navigating the Depression, found work where she could. The FamilySearch record notes an occupation of Beauty Operator, recorded in 1933 in Minneapolis. In a letter she wrote to her granddaughter Karen in February 1998, Margaret recalled those years with vivid specificity: people gradually looked more shabby, nobody could get work, and those with work were laid off. Her father said "It's one man off the top or three off the bottom and the work has to be done so he was the one to go." She described standing in line for a loaf of bread for a nickel, trading jelly and food, using script for money until it was declared illegal. A lady from church let her work in a sweat shop; when Mrs. Gerber learned of it she suggested Margaret go to work for a Smythes — an undertaker — taking care of their baby and tending the phone. She

received ten meals and three dollars a week and did not have to pay carfare. "I married Glenn the following June," she concluded.

> *The letter to Karen Briggs Morgan (February 10, 1998) is the fullest surviving account of Margaret's voice and inner life. It was written when she was eighty-five years old and is preserved on the FamilySearch Memories page for her profile. As an oral history source it is valuable for texture and daily life; minor factual imprecisions (e.g., dating the stock market crash as "Black Friday" and "Bank Holiday") reflect the compression of memory rather than inaccuracy about her own experience.*

## MARRIAGE TO GLENN HILDRETH BRIGGS (1934)

On June 23, 1934, Margaret Haworth Dartt married Glenn Hildreth Briggs at the home of her parents, 2747 Seventeenth Avenue South, Minneapolis. Two newspapers covered the wedding on the same day. The Minneapolis Star's account noted that Miss Ruth Ellsworth served as maid of honor, Little Betty Lou Botts as flower girl, and Donald Martin as best man. The bride's gown was white satin with a lace bolero; she carried yellow roses and wore a veil previously worn by her sister Mrs. Adelbert Botts (Donna Dartt) at her wedding. Out-of-town guests included Harvey Dartt Jr. of Faribault, Mrs. Coris Gasner and daughter, and Dr. and Mrs. A. H. Botts of Worcester, Massachusetts. The couple planned to be at home at 2838 Cedar Avenue after July 16.

Glenn Hildreth Briggs was the son of the late Fred H. Briggs and Mrs. Briggs of 2211 Central Avenue — a Minneapolis family. He was twenty-two years old; Margaret was twenty-one. They had applied for their license on June 4, 1934, as recorded in the Minneapolis Star.

## MINNESOTA: EARLY MARRIAGE AND THE DEPRESSION YEARS (1934–1944)

The Briggs began their married life in Minneapolis. The city directory and residence records place them at 2838 Cedar Avenue in 1934, moving through several Minneapolis addresses over the following years: 4011 Thomas Ave. N. (1935), 806 Thornton (1936), and 2836 Cedar Avenue (1934). On March 12, 1935, a fire swept through the Briggs home at 5711 Twentieth Avenue South. The Star Tribune ran a photograph the following Sunday showing Mr. and Mrs. Glenn H. Briggs outside the wreckage, each holding a rescued pet — Skeets, a dog that had hidden under the house during the blaze, and Dinky, a cat. They had lost possessions but saved the animals. The fire occurred less than nine months into the marriage.

The Depression bore down on the young household. In December 1936, a Social Program Application appears in the record — presumably connected to relief programs of the period. Margaret's 1998 letter to Karen captures how those pressures felt from the inside: progressive, grinding, and personal. By 1937 the couple had relocated to Monticello, Wright County, Minnesota, before returning to Minneapolis; the 1940 census places them at 601 W. Madison, St. Peter, Nicollet County, Minnesota. Their first son, Glenn H. Briggs II, was born on August 21, 1936, at 806 SE Thornton Street, Minneapolis; the birth notice appeared in the Minneapolis Star.

In 1933, before the marriage, Margaret had attended Walker Methodist Church at 3104 Sixteenth Avenue South. Her Methodist faith appears to have been a consistent thread through her life, recorded as her religion in the FamilySearch profile.

## WARTIME AND THE MOVE WEST (1944–1954)

By 1944, the Briggs family had moved to California. Voter registration records for 1944 and 1946 place them at 21048 Gresham Street, Canoga Park, Los Angeles — their address in the San Fernando Valley during Glenn's work in the Southern California aerospace industry. Margaret registered to vote and appears on both years' voter rolls alongside Glenn. During this period, Margaret's 2006 obituary records, she worked as a welder on airplans.

The most unusual chapter of these years came with the family's posting to Muroc Army Air Field in the high desert of Kern County. Voter registration records for 1947 and 1948 list their address as Apt. 29-C, Box 145, Muroc — the housing at what was then one of the most secretive flight-test installations in the country. The posting appears to have lasted approximately two years, after which the family returned to Canoga Park.

> *Muroc Army Air Field (later Edwards Air Force Base) was the site of experimental aircraft testing in the late 1940s, including Chuck Yeager's sound barrier flight in October 1947. The families of engineers and technical workers stationed there lived in base housing.*

A 1949 residence record and the 1950 census places the family in Airport Township, St. Louis, Missouri at 9321 Harold Drive. By 1954, they returned to California and settled at 7017 Topanga Canyon Boulevard, Canoga Park, the address that appears in Los Angeles newspaper records through the early 1960s. It was here that Margaret put down the deepest California

roots, raising her sons in the San Fernando Valley school system and participating in the PTA and civic life of the community.

## CANOGA PARK: FAMILY LIFE AND CIVIC WORK (1954–1963)

Through the 1950s, the Briggs family was a visible presence in Canoga Park. Margaret's role as a full-time homemaker raising five sons — the fifth, Christy Link Briggs, born in 1950 — was the center of her life. But the newspaper record catches her also as a woman who took on the civic and organizational work of her community with evident energy.

In January 1957, the Valley News reported that Mrs. Glen Briggs was serving as senior activities chairman for the Canoga Park High School PTA, busy meeting with chairmen of other schools to plan an all-night party for mid-year graduates. She was also listed on the nominating committee for new PTA officers. In February 1957, at the Annual Blue and Gold Dinner of Cub Scout Pack 312, the pack sponsored by Canoga Park Elementary School PTA, Mrs. Briggs was presented with awards — her name appearing in a list of mothers whose sons had earned Webelos badges, the highest rank in Cubbing.

Glenn Hildreth Briggs died in 1959. The sons' births and activities continued to appear in the newspaper record through the early 1960s, with Margaret identified in each as "Mrs. Margaret D. Briggs" or "Mrs. Glenn H. Briggs, Sr." — a woman managing a household of growing sons in the San Fernando Valley. In May 1962, when her son Bruce Blaine Briggs graduated from the Naval Officer Candidate School at Newport, Rhode Island, the Los Angeles Times noted him as "son of Mrs. Margaret D. Briggs, 7017 Topanga Canyon Blvd." In October 1961, Patrick Michael Briggs married Mardi Lynn Haley in Canoga Park; his mother was listed among the guests. In June 1964, Bruce Briggs married Elaine Greenwood at the Salt Lake LDS Temple; the Midvale Sentinel noted that "his mother is Mrs. Glenn H. Briggs, Sr., Canoga Park, Calif."

> *Glenn Hildreth Briggs Sr. died in 1959 at the age of forty-seven. His biography, which is a separate document in this research, records his career in aerospace work. His early death left Margaret with five sons ranging in age from roughly eight to twenty-three. The record suggests she continued to manage the Canoga Park household and maintain her community presence through the early 1960s before the move to Salt Lake City.*

## SALT LAKE CITY: CHASE PIONEER HOME AND LATER LIFE (1964–2006)

Margaret moved to Salt Lake City in 1964, according to her obituary. The surviving records place her in the Midvale–Salt Lake area from at least 1963 onward; by September 1989 she is specifically recorded at a Salt Lake City address, and the death certificate lists Midvale, Salt Lake, as her residence before death.

In 1965 she became the hostess at the Isaac Chase Pioneer Home in Liberty Park, Salt Lake City — a historic house that served as a community institution and visitor attraction. She is identified in this role across several newspaper items. The Deseret News for December 2, 1971 reported that Margaret Dartt Briggs, of Chase Home, Liberty Park, had been approved by the Salt Lake City Commission as a relief school crossing guard — believed to be the first woman crossing guard in the history of the city. She would be paid five dollars per hour and given a fifteen-dollar monthly uniform allowance. The Salt Lake Tribune ran a companion notice the same week under the headline "Women Guards at S.L. Schools." The city commission had approved the appointments, the city having advertised for both men and women.

Her work at the Chase Pioneer Home continued into at least 1973, when the Sunset News noted that her son Glenn H. Briggs II, a Navy Journalist Senior Chief, had been temporarily assigned to the Navy's Command Information Bureau. The item described him as "son of Mrs. Margaret D. Briggs of Isaac Chase Historical House, Liberty Park, Salt Lake City."

The obituary records that at age sixty-five she became a school crossing guard for Uintah Elementary — the Deseret News and Salt Lake Tribune coverage from December 1971 confirms this, placing her as among the very first women to hold such a position in Salt Lake City. A photograph survives from 1974 showing her in crossing-guard uniform — cap, vest, and stop sign — escorting two students across a residential street. The Midvale Sentinel for May 1966 recorded a family note: Christy Briggs, her youngest son, was named a first-place winner in a Midvale Stake MIA speech contest, identified as "son of Mrs. Margaret Briggs, Salt Lake."

Margaret lived long enough to see more than 130 descendants. The family gathered for memorial services in both Salt Lake City and Los Angeles after her death.

## DEATH: DECEMBER 9, 2006

Margaret Haworth Dartt Briggs died on December 9, 2006, at 5:30 in the afternoon at Sandy Regional Health Center, Sandy, Salt Lake County, Utah. She was ninety-three years old. Her son Bruce B. Briggs of Midvale served as informant on the death certificate. The cause of death was listed as cardiopulmonary arrest, with renal failure, hypertension, congestive heart failure, and diabetes as contributing factors. Her remains were interred with her husband Glenn at Oakwood Cemetery, Chatsworth, California; the grave marker reads "Margaret D. Briggs, 1913–2006, Beloved Wife & Mother."

Her obituary in the Deseret News (December 17, 2006) described her as the youngest of five children of Harvey Schuyler Dartt and Ella May Haworth Dartt; noted her wartime work as a welder on airplane targets; her role as hostess at the Chase Pioneer Home; and her work as a school crossing guard at Uintah Elementary. She was survived by five sons: Glenn Jr. (JoAnn), the late Walter (Mary Alice), Bruce (Elaine), Patrick (Mardi), and Christy (Kristie). She had more than 130 descendants.

## SUMMARY

Margaret Haworth Dartt was born in Owatonna, Minnesota, in 1913 and died in Salt Lake City ninety-three years later, having lived through virtually every major episode of twentieth-century American life: the Depression, the Second World War and homefront industrial work, the postwar move west, the building of a large family through loss and persistence, and a long active old age in Salt Lake City that she filled with public roles most women of her generation had not occupied.

What the record shows most clearly is a woman who did not withdraw from public life when circumstances — widowhood, age, unfamiliar territory — might have provided occasion to. She raised five sons after her husband's death at forty-seven. She moved to a new city at fifty-one and became the public face of a historic house. At sixty-five she became, in the city's own reckoning, one of its first women school crossing guards. She wore the cap and the vest and walked the children across the street.

Her 1998 letter to Karen — written at eighty-five, specific about bread lines and sweat shops and the nickels that didn't go far enough — is the most direct record of her voice. She wrote about standing in line and trading food and how it all got gradually worse, and she closed by

noting that she married Glenn the following June. The tone is matter-of-fact and the memory is exact. It is not a bad way to be remembered.

## SOURCES

### Vital and Legal Records

Certificate of Death — Margaret Briggs; State of Utah, Salt Lake County; State File No. 2006015023; cause: cardiopulmonary arrest, with renal failure, hypertension, congestive heart failure, and diabetes; physician Dr. Charles Canfield, Sandy, Utah; informant Bruce B. Briggs (son), 130 East 7460 South, Midvale; filed December 11, 2006.

Record of Birth — Margaret Haworth Dartt; State of Minnesota, Steele County; Reg. District No. 1, No. in Registration Book 2-0; born March 8, 1913; father Harvey S. Dartt, civil engineer; mother Ella M. Haworth[?]; certified copy issued March 9, 1983, Frederick L. King, State Registrar, Minnesota Department of Health.

Marriage Certificate — Glenn H. Briggs and Margaret H. Dartt; Hennepin County, Minnesota; June 23, 1934; officiant Rev. William C. Lee, Walker M. E. Church; witnesses Ruth Ellsworth and D. M. Martin; filed June 26, 1934; Book 84, Page 60; certified copy on file with Clerk of District Court, Fourth Judicial District, Hennepin County.

### Newspaper Sources

Star Tribune (Minneapolis, Minnesota) • 30 Oct 1927 (community fund canvassers, district listing) • 29 Jan 1933 (M.B.M. Social Club hostess) • 17 Mar 1935 (house fire, “Pets Saved From Fire,” photograph) • 20 May 1936 (obituary of Harvey S. Dartt, Margaret named as surviving daughter)

The Minneapolis Journal (Minneapolis, Minnesota) • 14 Dec 1930 (“Two Class Plays Receive Ovations,” cast list for South High production of “The Poor Nut”) • 26 Jun 1934 (wedding announcement, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey S. Dartt)

The Minneapolis Star (Minneapolis, Minnesota) • 5 Jun 1934 (marriage license application) • 28 Jun 1934 (“Miss Margaret Dartt Weds Glen Briggs”) • 21 Aug 1936 (birth notice, Glenn H. Briggs, 806 SE Thornton)

Valley News (Van Nuys / Canoga Park, California) • 20 Jan 1957 (PTA committees, Mrs. Glen Briggs as senior activities chairman) • 24 Feb 1957 (Cub Scout Pack 312 Blue and Gold Dinner, Webelos awards, Mrs. Briggs presented)

The Los Angeles Times (Los Angeles, California) • 24 May 1962 (Ens. Bruce B. Briggs graduates from Naval Officer Candidate School, son of Mrs. Margaret D. Briggs)

The Van Nuys News and Valley Green Sheet (Van Nuys, California) • 12 Oct 1961 (Patrick Michael Briggs marries Mardia Lynn Haley)

The Midvale Sentinel (Midvale, Utah) • 26 Jun 1964 (Bruce Blaine Briggs marries Elaine Greenwood) • 13 May 1966 (Christy Briggs, speech contest winner, son of Mrs. Margaret Briggs, Salt Lake)

Salt Lake Tribune (Salt Lake City, Utah) • 10 Dec 1971 (“Women Guards At S.L. Schools,” Margaret Dartt Briggs named)

Deseret News (Salt Lake City, Utah) • 2 Dec 1971 (“The First Woman Crossing Guard?,” Margaret Dartt Briggs, Chase Home) • 17 Dec 2006 (obituary, “Margaret Dartt Briggs, 1913–2006”)

Sunset News (Salt Lake City area, Utah) • 26 Apr 1973 (Navy Chief Glenn H. Briggs II, son of Mrs. Margaret D. Briggs of Isaac Chase Historical House)

American Fork Citizen (American Fork, Utah) • 15 Oct 1959 (birth of Dennis Paul Briggs, grandson; Mrs. Margaret Briggs of Canoga Park named as other grandmother) • 16 Feb 1967 (birth of Nathan Walter Briggs to Walter and Mary Alice Monson Briggs; Mrs. Margaret Briggs of Salt Lake City named as grandmother)

## Family and Genealogical Sources

FamilySearch Profile — Margaret Haworth Dartt; Person ID: L89P-KHR; accessed June 2026. Records birth, death, parents (Harvey Schuyler Dartt and Sarah Newella May Chandler), marriage to Glenn Hildreth Briggs, children, and residence events. Also records religion (Methodist), education (South High School, Minneapolis), nickname (Marge, from high school yearbook). Multiple contributors; key entries by Lori Briggs, JoAnnBrown1, joshuatysongray1, Briggs, Michael Patrick. Note: some event entries carry no independent source citations beyond contributor annotations.

"Grandma Margaret tells about the Depression" — Letter, Margaret Dartt Briggs to Karen Briggs Morgan; February 10, 1998. Transcribed and contributed to FamilySearch Memories by Karen Briggs Morgan. Covers Margaret's first-hand recollections of the Great Depression in Minneapolis: progressive unemployment, use of script, bread lines, work in a sweat shop, and domestic service for an undertaker's family; closes with her marriage to Glenn in June 1934. Primary source for Depression-era personal detail in this biography. Note: minor factual imprecisions in dating (e.g., "Black Friday" and "Bank Holiday" placed in 1929) reflect compression of memory; treated as personal recollection rather than historical chronology.

South High School Yearbook entry — "Dartt, Margaret H., 'Marge'"; activities: Band, Blue Triangle, Torchbearers, Pegasus, Fiction, Class Play; verse: "Friendly and helpful, lovely and sweet, / The sight of 'Marge' makes the day complete." Source: FamilySearch Memories (scanned clipping, contributor Briggs, Michael Patrick, June 23, 2026). Establishes nickname and high school activities; confirms South High School, Minneapolis, as the institution.

Gravestone photograph — Oakwood Cemetery, Chatsworth, California; grave marker "Margaret D. Briggs, Beloved Wife & Mother, 1913–2006" alongside Glenn H. Briggs marker (1912–1959). Source: FamilySearch Memories (contributor valeriejogray1, July 29, 2015). Confirms burial location and dates.

Family photographs — Multiple photographs contributed to FamilySearch Memories by Karen Briggs Morgan and others, including: (1) outdoor group photograph, c. 1950s, tagged Margaret Haworth Dartt and Glenn Hildreth Briggs with sons Patrick Michael, Bruce Blaine, Glenn H. II, Walter Paul, and Christy Link; (2) indoor family dinner photograph, c. 1950s; (3) later photograph of Margaret with four sons (Glenn II, Bruce, Christy, Patrick). Source: FamilySearch Memories. Establish family composition during California years.

School crossing guard photograph — 1974; shows Margaret Briggs in crossing guard uniform (cap, vest, stop sign) escorting two students across a residential street, Salt Lake City area. Source: family collection / FamilySearch Memories. Consistent with her role at Uintah Elementary as documented in the 1971 newspaper sources.

# FRED HENRY BRIGGS

*Secretary of Commercial Association • Professor*

MICHIGAN • ILLINOIS • MINNEAPOLIS

*Also known as: F. H. Briggs • Fred Briggs • Fred H. Briggs*

## VITAL STATISTICS

| | |
|---|---|
| **BORN** | July 20, 1877, Battle Creek, Calhoun, Michigan |
| **DIED** | August 11, 1930, Rochester, Olmsted County, Minnesota (age 53) |
| **BURIAL** | Hillside Cemetery, Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota |
| **FATHER** | William Archer Briggs (1854 - 1911) |
| **MOTHER** | Emma Louise Peck (1854 - 1930) |
| **MARRIED** | June 19, 1906, Grand Rapids, Kent County, Michigan, to Lo Ella (LoElla) Hildreth (1882 – 1958) |
| **CHILDREN** | Mary Louise Briggs (1908 – 1984)<br>Glenn Hildreth Briggs (1912 – 1959)<br>Newell Frederick Briggs (1917 – 1920)<br>Paul Archer Briggs (1923 – 1975) |
| **SIBLINGS** | Glenn Alexander Briggs (1883 – 1925)<br>Carleton Hamilton Briggs (1889 – 1951) |

## FAMILY BACKGROUND

Fred Henry Briggs was born on July 20, 1877, in Battle Creek, Michigan, the eldest of three sons of William Archer Briggs and Emma Louise Peck. William Briggs was a Michigan country lawyer — a man of local standing in the Montcalm County town of Stanton — and it was in that community that Fred grew up and received his early education. The Stanton schools were his foundation; Fred graduated from the high school there and delivered the graduation address in 1895 on the subject of "The Negro in Politics" — a choice of topic that suggests an engaged and forward-looking young mind.

He had two brothers: Glenn Alexander Briggs (1883–1925), who spent much of his life in Chicago, and Carleton Hamilton Briggs (1889–1951), later of Evanston, Indiana. The family's

connections to Michigan remained strong throughout Fred's life; Stanton and Battle Creek were the addresses of the relatives who came to Minneapolis when he was buried in 1930.

His father William Archer Briggs died in 1911. His mother, Emma Louise Peck Briggs, outlived three of her four children and died in 1930 — the same year as Fred.

## MICHIGAN YEARS: EDUCATION AND EARLY CAREER (TO 1907)

After graduating from Stanton, Fred Briggs pursued commercial and business education — the practical accounting and penmanship instruction that was in growing demand in the expanding commercial economy of the late nineteenth century. He attended the Ferris Institute at Big Rapids, Michigan (later Ferris State University), which specialized in preparing teachers for business and commercial subjects.

By the summer of 1896, still in school, he was already visiting Grand Rapids relatives — a note in The Grand Rapids Press places him there in August. By January 1900, The Saginaw News records him spending the holidays with relatives at Battle Creek before heading back to Stanton. The following year, a brief item in the same paper notes that he had "secured a position with the Grand Ledge Chair Co." in August 1901 — an interlude before he found his footing as a teacher.

By September 1903, The Saginaw News reported that F. H. Briggs had gone to Chicago, "where he has a position as teacher of penmanship in a business college." This was Jones Business College, where he was serving as an instructor by the time of his marriage in 1906. He had been teaching accounting and related commercial subjects in Canada, Iowa, and Chicago between 1900 and 1907, according to the Ancestry life sketch compiled from family correspondence.

> *Commercial education — bookkeeping, penmanship, typing, shorthand — was among the fastest-growing professional fields in early twentieth-century America. Business colleges and commercial high school programs were expanding rapidly, and competent instructors with practical skills and the ability to teach them were in constant demand. Fred Briggs's move from Michigan to the commercial teaching circuit in Chicago positioned him exactly in that expanding market.*

## MARRIAGE: JUNE 1906

On the evening of June 19, 1906, Fred Henry Briggs married Lo Ella (LoElla) Hildreth at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William E. Hildreth, in Kent City, Kent County, Michigan. Glenn A. Briggs, Fred's brother from Chicago, served as best man; Carrie Hildreth, the bride's sister, was bridesmaid. About forty guests were present.

LoElla Hildreth was twenty-four years old and had been working as a kindergarten teacher; she was a graduate of the Ferris school herself and had met Fred while serving as an assistant teacher there. The groom was described as a well-known and highly respected Stanton boy, now holding a fine position as instructor in the Jones Business College at Chicago.

After the ceremony, the couple departed by evening train for Grand Rapids, where they were joined the following day by Fred's parents and brother Carlton. The Stanton Marine Band serenaded them that Wednesday evening. They then returned to Chicago, their future home, before Fred relocated the family to Minneapolis in 1909.

Fred and LoElla had four children. Mary Louise was born in 1908 in Michigan; Glenn Hildreth in 1912 in Minneapolis; Newell Frederick in 1917, who died in infancy in 1920; and Paul Archer in 1923, also in Minneapolis. It was a stable and domestically settled life, anchored at 2810 Taylor Street NE in the New Boston neighborhood of northeast Minneapolis, where the family lived from about 1916 until Fred's death.

## MINNEAPOLIS: THE MINNESOTA SCHOOL OF BUSINESS (1909–1930)

Fred Briggs arrived in Minneapolis in 1909 and joined the faculty of the Minnesota School of Business, located at 54 Third Street South (later at other downtown addresses). He would remain associated with that institution for the rest of his working life: twenty-one years in total, the last of which he spent as head of the commercial department.

His specific role evolved over that period. A 1921 Star Tribune profile of the Minnesota School of Business identified him as principal of the bookkeeping department, having given business instruction for the past nineteen years — a figure that would place his start in formal commercial teaching around 1902, consistent with the trajectory described above. By the time of his death, the obituary notices described him as head of the commercial department. His

draft registration in September 1918 listed his employer as the Minnesota School of Business, at 617-18 First National Building, Minneapolis.

> *The Minnesota School of Business was a proprietary commercial school offering year-round instruction in accounting, bookkeeping, shorthand, typewriting, penmanship, salesmanship, and related subjects. It drew students from Minneapolis and surrounding communities who wanted practical business credentials rather than a liberal arts education. For a man with Fred Briggs's background and skills — Ferris-trained, Chicago-experienced, legendarily quick with numbers — the role of bookkeeping department head was a natural and durable fit.*

The family memory, preserved in letters from daughter Mary Louise to her nephew (Walter Briggs) and recounted in the Ancestry life sketch, emphasizes both Fred's professional intensity and the personal cost it carried. He was known for his ability with rapid calculation. He was a strict and task-oriented father who demanded excellence from himself and his children. Mary Louise, who had beautiful penmanship, recalled that she had been forced to practice so many hours to achieve it that it became a bittersweet skill; her father's exacting standards leaving a mark on her long after he was gone.

The same sources note that Fred eventually lost his teaching job, and that his mother came to live in the home in Minneapolis with the family. What led to the loss of his position is not stated in the surviving record; the death certificate records his illness beginning at least two years before his death, and his institutionalization in the summer of 1930 was clearly preceded by a period of deteriorating mental health.

## CIVIC LIFE: NORTHEAST MINNEAPOLIS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE (1912–1926)

Fred Briggs's civic life in Minneapolis was concentrated in the community of Northeast — specifically the New Boston district along Central Avenue, a working-class commercial neighborhood of frame houses, small shops, and fraternal halls that sat on the east side of the Mississippi. He was active in that community's organized life from at least 1912 onward, and the record of his involvement that survives in the Minneapolis papers is substantial.

An early chapter of that civic life was his role in founding the Wolverine Society of Minneapolis, an association of former Michigan residents and Michigan alumni living in the city. In January 1913, notices in both the Minneapolis Journal and the Star Tribune announced that former Michiganders in the city were organizing a new society, and invited eligible

residents to send their names to William Koon at the Northwestern National Bank or to F. H. Briggs at the Minnesota School of Business. By February the society had taken formal shape — Charles F. Herrmann as president, Fred as secretary, W. M. Koons as treasurer — and by April he and Koon were handling membership applications for the annual Wolverine Society Banquet at the Leamington, attended by seventy-five guests and addressed by Governor A. O. Eberhart.

His most sustained institutional commitment, however, was as secretary of the Central Avenue Commercial Association — also known at various points as the New Boston Business Men's Association and the Central Avenue Business Men's Association — the neighborhood merchants' and civic organization that he served for eight consecutive years through January 1926, a span the Stanton obituary singled out for mention. As secretary he was the operational center of the association: writing letters to city officials, managing publicity and event applications, serving on arrangements committees, speaking to reporters, and appearing in the Minneapolis papers with the regularity of a man on whom an organization depends.

The summer of 1919 gives a concentrated picture of how that work looked in practice. When the city organized citizens' welcome committees to greet returning soldiers at the train stations, Fred was repeatedly named to the Milwaukee Station detail and later served as captain of the Gateway Building greeting team. He then helped organize the large Northeast community homecoming picnic at Columbia Park in June, which drew thousands of residents and was one of the first major civic events of the postwar summer. Within days of that event, the new Central Avenue Commercial Association was announced with Fred named as its secretary — the role he would hold for nearly a decade.

Through the early 1920s, the association's annual community picnic at Columbia Park grew into one of the largest civic gatherings in northeast Minneapolis, drawing more than 40,000 attendees by mid-decade and eventually planning for 50,000. Fred managed the special privileges committee for these events and handled much of the publicity and logistics. He was also appointed in July 1921 to the Minneapolis Community Fund advisory committee, one of roughly a hundred civic leaders selected by the Council of Social Agencies to consider the structure of a joint charitable campaign for the city's social agencies — a sign that his standing extended beyond the immediate neighborhood.

> *The Central Avenue Commercial Association's annual community picnic at Columbia Park was a significant civic institution in northeast Minneapolis through the 1920s. As secretary, Fred Briggs*

> *was the organizational hub for these events over nearly a decade — managing correspondence, applications, publicity, and logistics. The role placed him in regular contact with city officials, local politicians, and the civic and commercial leadership of one of Minneapolis's most active neighborhoods.*

The newspaper record captures his voice directly on at least two occasions. In November 1921, speaking as secretary about the conclusion of the association's three-day trade show on Central Avenue, he told the Star Tribune that the interest shown during the first two days had far exceeded expectations and that he believed the exposition had been a success from every standpoint. In January 1922, he spoke to the Minneapolis Journal about the city council's efforts to close soft-drink establishments that were fronting for illegal liquor sales: the association opposed granting licenses to any places of questionable character and reputation, he stated, and it wanted to keep the entire street clean from such places. He was also elected that spring as a Republican delegate to the Hennepin County Convention from the Ninth Ward.

A letter he sent to the Brainerd Dispatch in September 1914 offers a less official but perhaps more personal glimpse of the man at mid-career. Writing in response to an advertisement for Crow Wing County land, he identified himself as principal of the commercial accounting department at the Minnesota School of Business, noted that he still owned the homestead in Montcalm County, Michigan where he had grown up, and described himself as earning a large salary with a comfortable side income — a man looking to put away part of a recent raise in a small piece of land. He wanted to deal with clean, reliable real estate men, he said, not land sharks, and he wanted information that was pertinent and factual, as far removed from exploitation and promotion as possible.

## ILLNESS, DECLINE, AND DEATH (1928–1930)

By his mid-forties, Fred Briggs appears to have begun the deterioration that would end his life at fifty-three. The Ancestry life sketch, drawing on family correspondence, describes a man who became increasingly difficult to live with and who eventually lost his teaching job. His mother came to live in the Minneapolis household during this period. His death certificate records a duration of two years for the primary cause — placing the onset of the episode that ended his life around 1928.

LoElla, described in the family sketch as a patient and devoted domestic presence (her occupation, written by Fred, on Mary Louise's 1908 birth certificate is listed as "Queen of the American Home"), had eventually arranged for Fred to be committed to the Rochester State Hospital. The Ancestry sketch notes that it was LoElla who made this arrangement, and that the family's son Glenn was just graduating from high school at the time.

Fred Briggs was admitted to Rochester State Hospital, located in Olmsted County in southeastern Minnesota, sometime in the summer of 1930. He was attended by physicians there from July 28th onward. On the morning of August 11, 1930, at 5:12 a.m., he died. He was fifty-three years, zero months, and twenty-one days old.

The death certificate, issued by Olmsted County and signed by a Rochester physician, records the principal cause of death as Manic-Depressive Psychosis, Depressive Type, of two years' duration, with Bronchial Pneumonia as a contributory secondary cause of seven days.

> *Manic depressive psychosis — what would today be classified as bipolar disorder, severe depressive episode, or a related mood disorder — was one of the recognized diagnostic categories in American psychiatry by 1930. Treatment options at the time were extremely limited. Institutional commitment was the principal recourse when a patient became unable to function at home or posed a risk to themselves or others. The Rochester State Hospital was a large state institution that received patients from across Minnesota.*

His mother, Emma L. Briggs, died July 18, 1930 — less than a month before Fred — according to the Stanton obituary notice, which notes her passing as a recent occurrence at the time of his death.

## FUNERAL AND BURIAL

Funeral services for Fred Henry Briggs were held at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 14, 1930, at the Windom Park Baptist Church in Minneapolis, located at Lowry and Pierce Streets NE. Pallbearers were Mr. Louis Decombe, Mr. Alvin Norton, Mr. C. A. Judd, Mr. W. M. Thompson, Mr. J. H. McNulty, and Mr. Floyd Margadant — several of whom had been colleagues or fellow officers in the Central Avenue Commercial Association over the years.

Burial was in Hillside Cemetery, Minneapolis. A memorial booklet, preserved by the family, records the service details, the floral offerings, and the names of those who attended — including representatives of the Central Avenue Commercial Association, the Men's Club of

Windom Park Baptist Church, friends from the Minnesota School of Business, and family relatives from Michigan, Illinois, and Indiana.

Relatives attending included Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Briggs (from Chicago), Billy Briggs, Mr. C. J. Briggs, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Hildreth (LoElla's family), and Carrie Hildreth (LoElla's sister).

## SUMMARY

Fred Henry Briggs was a Michigan schoolboy who made himself into a commercial educator, spending twenty-one years at the Minnesota School of Business in Minneapolis building a career on numbers, precision, and the practical arts of bookkeeping and accounting. His legendary ability with rapid calculation was the professional foundation; his demanding standards was the personal expression of the same discipline.

Outside the classroom, he was the kind of man civic organizations count on: the secretary who keeps the records, writes the letters, handles the membership applications, and makes sure the annual picnic has its special privileges sorted. He served the Central Avenue Commercial Association as secretary for eight consecutive years, helped bring the Wolverine Society of Minneapolis into existence, welcomed returning soldiers at the train station in 1919, and showed up on committee lists through the 1920s with the reliability of a man who understood that institutions run on unglamorous work.

He was fifty-three when he died at Rochester State Hospital in August 1930, the same summer his mother died — a compressed and difficult ending to a life that had been orderly and productive for most of its length. The Stanton obituary put it well: "a kind husband, loving father and thoughtful neighbor has gone from among us, but the memory of his presence will remain with us as a monument more lasting than stone."

## SOURCES

### Vital and Legal Records

Registration Card (WWI Draft) — Fred H. Briggs; Serial No. 883; Local Board Div. 9, Minneapolis, Minn.; occupation: Commercial Instructor, Minnesota School of Business; nearest relative: Mrs. Lo Ella Hildreth Briggs; registered September 9, 1918.

Certificate of Death — Fred H. Briggs, State of Minnesota, Olmsted County; State File No. 10383; principal cause: Manic Depressive Psychosis, Depressive Type; contributory: Bronchial Pneumonia; August 11, 1930.

Certified Copy of Marriage Record — Fred H. Briggs and LoElla Hildreth, Kent County, Michigan; Record No. 8416; June 19, 1906.

Certificate of Birth — Mary Louise Briggs, State of Michigan, Muskegon County; July 13, 1908.

Record of Birth — Glenn Hildreth Briggs, State of Minnesota, Hennepin County; No. 37439; March 19, 1912.

Record of Birth — Paul Archer Briggs, State of Minnesota, Hennepin County; No. 40685; February 23, 1923.

## Newspaper Sources

The Grand Rapids Press (Grand Rapids, MI) • 29 Aug 1896

The Saginaw News (Saginaw, MI) • 5 Jan 1900 • 13 Aug 1901 • 3 Sep 1903

Battle Creek Enquirer (Battle Creek, MI) • 14 Jun 1906

Stanton newspaper (Stanton, MI) • Jun 1906 (wedding account; exact title not identified in source PDF)

Brainerd Dispatch (Brainerd, MN) • 18 Sep 1914

The Minneapolis Journal (Minneapolis, MN) • 14 Mar 1912 • 26 Jan 1913 • 16 Feb 1913 • 21 Apr 1913 • 27 Apr 1913 • 12 Dec 1918 • 10 May 1919 • 24 May 1919 • 5 Jun 1919 • 12 Jun 1919 • 19 Jun 1919 • 20 Jun 1919 • 23 Jan 1921 • 11 Feb 1921 • 20 Mar 1921 • 30 Jul 1921 • 3 Aug 1921 • 15 Jan 1922 • 11 Jul 1926 • 13 Aug 1930

Star Tribune (Minneapolis, MN) • 26 Jan 1913 • 18 Jan 1917 • 12 May 1919 • 26 Jun 1919 • 29 Jul 1920 • 30 Jul 1921 • 3 Aug 1921 • 28 Aug 1921 • 19 Nov 1921 • 20 Nov 1921 • 6 Dec 1921 • 15 Mar 1922 • 1 Mar 1923 • 19 Jul 1925

The Minneapolis Star (Minneapolis, MN) • 30 Jul 1921 • 3 Aug 1921 • 6 Jul 1923 • 16 Jul 1923 • 27 Jan 1925 • 12 Aug 1930 • 13 Aug 1930

The Stanton Clipper Herald (Stanton, MI) • 22 Aug 1930

## Family and Genealogical Sources

Fred H. Briggs Memorial Record — August 14, 1930; funeral card with pallbearers and attendees (family collection).

Ancestry.com Life Sketch — Fred Henry Briggs (compiled 2021; references letters of Mary Louise Briggs to nephew Walter Paul Briggs, 1960s; Karen Briggs Morgan conversations with Paul Archer Briggs, 1990s; Walter Paul Briggs notes, 1960s).

# LO ELLA HILDRETH

*Teacher • Matron • Civic Leader*

NEW YORK • MICHIGAN • MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

*Also known as: Lo Ella Briggs • LoElla Briggs • Mrs. Fred H. Briggs • Mrs. F. H. Briggs*

## VITAL STATISTICS

| | |
|---|---|
| **BORN** | May 4, 1882, Stockton, Chautauqua County, New York |
| **DIED** | January 24, 1958, Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota (age 75) |
| **BURIAL** | Hillside Cemetery, Minneapolis, Minnesota |
| **FATHER** | William Coleman Hildreth (1844 - 1911) |
| **MOTHER** | Mary McCann (1849 - 1929) |
| **MARRIED** | June 19, 1906, Grand Rapids, Kent County, Michigan, to Fred Henry Briggs (1877–1930) |
| **CHILDREN** | Mary Louise Briggs (1908 – 1984)<br>Glenn Hildreth Briggs (1912 – 1959)<br>Newell Frederick Briggs (1917 – 1920)<br>Paul Archer Briggs (1923 – 1975) |
| **SIBLINGS** | Earl Newell Hildreth (1879–1967)<br>Carrie Belle Hildreth (1888–1947) |

## FAMILY BACKGROUND

Lo Ella Hildreth was born on May 4, 1882 in Stockton, Chautauqua County, New York — the second child of William Coleman Hildreth and Mary McCann. Her father, William Coleman Hildreth, was born on June 7, 1844 at Buchanan, Michigan, and married Mary McCann February 17, 1877 at Groton, Tompkins, New York.

The family appears in both New York and Michigan contexts; by the early twentieth century they were settled in western Michigan, in the Casnovia and Kent City area of Kent County. William died on April 16, 1911. Mary McCann lived until May 19, 1929, and was remembered by her granddaughter Mary Louise Briggs — writing decades later — as a nurse who came to

help when Glenn Hildreth Briggs was born, fighting for the infant's life when he weighed under four pounds.

Lo Ella had two siblings who feature in the record. Her brother, Earl Newell Hildreth (1879–1967), lived in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and remained in contact with his sister and her family throughout their lives; in 1939, when her half-brother Alla (Albert) Ward returned after a 27-year absence, it was at Lo Ella's Minneapolis home that Earl and their sister Carrie gathered for the reunion. Carrie Belle Hildreth (1888–1947) never married and spent most of her adult life in Casnovia, Michigan, where she worked for many years as supervisor of the school hot lunch program. Her obituary confirms that a brother Earl of Grand Rapids and a sister 'Loella Briggs of Minneapolis' were her survivors, fixing the relationship precisely.

> *The Hildreth family's published genealogy (a page of which survives in the source record) describes the family under William C. Hildreth — entry number 319 in a compiled Hildreth lineage — and lists Lo Ella as No. 527, noting her birth date of May 4, 1881 (a year earlier than the death certificate and FamilySearch records, which give 1882) and her marriage to "Prof. Fred H. Briggs." The Hildreth family Bible, now in the possession of Karen Briggs Morgan, was passed from Caroline J. Harrison (William's mother) to William C. Hildreth, then to Lo Ella, then to Glenn Hildreth Briggs, then to his son Walter P. Briggs.*

## EDUCATION AND EARLY CAREER: MICHIGAN (TO 1906)

Lo Ella Hildreth received her professional training at Ferris Institute in Big Rapids, Michigan (where she was an assistant teacher for her future husband Fred Briggs). A July 1902 notice in the Muskegon Chronicle records her graduation from the kindergarten department of Ferris, one of a class of ten young women graduated with honors. The newspaper wedding announcement — written when she married in 1906 — confirms the same credential, describing her as a "Kindergarten Teacher" at the time of her marriage. Her father's entry on the marriage certificate also gives her occupation as Kindergarten Teacher.

Her early teaching career placed her in western Michigan. By June 1906 she was living in Kent City, Kent County, with her parents — the marriage certificate gives "Kent City" as her residence at the time of the wedding. A July 1899 Detroit Free Press listing places a "Loella Hildreth" of Moline among a Michigan delegation registered at a Presbyterian church in Detroit, and an 1899 notice places a Loella Hildreth of Moline among Michigan delegates — evidence of early participation in church and educational circles in that region. These small

traces together suggest a young woman moving through the teaching networks of western Michigan in the years before her marriage.

> *Ferris Institute, founded in 1884 at Big Rapids by Woodbridge N. Ferris (later Governor of Michigan), offered practical vocational and teacher training programs at a time when many Michigan schools were expanding kindergarten provision. Graduating from its kindergarten department was a recognized professional credential for a woman entering elementary school work in the early 1900s.*

## MARRIAGE TO FRED HENRY BRIGGS: 1906

On June 19, 1906 Lo Ella was married to Fred Henry Briggs at the home of her parents in Kent City, in a ceremony the local paper described as "a pretty wedding." About forty guests attended, drawn from both families. As the bridal party took their positions under a floral canopy in the parlors, her brother Earl sang. Glenn A. Briggs of Chicago served as best man and Carrie Hildreth, Lo Ella's younger sister, was bridesmaid. After an elaborate wedding lunch, the couple departed on the evening train for Grand Rapids, amid showers of rice.

Fred Henry Briggs was born on July 20, 1877 in Battle Creek, Michigan, and had come to Minneapolis around 1909 to serve as an instructor at the Minnesota School of Business — a position he held for the rest of his life. He had previously lived in Chicago. The certified marriage record in Kent County gives him as 28 years old, resident of Chicago, occupation "Teacher," father William A. Briggs, mother Emma L. Peck. Lo Ella was recorded as 24, a Kindergarten Teacher, birthplace Stockton, New York, father William C. Hildreth, mother Mary McCann.

> *The Hildreth family genealogy describes Fred as "Prof. Fred H. Briggs" — the honorific "Professor" was commonly applied to instructors at business schools and commercial institutes in this era, even without a university appointment. Fred Briggs held a position at the Minnesota School of Business for over two decades, where his obituary described him as thoroughly versed in business correspondence and commercial instruction.*

## MINNEAPOLIS: FAMILY AND CIVIC LIFE (1906–1930)

Fred and Lo Ella settled in Minneapolis, where Fred held his post at the Minnesota School of Business. The family's addresses trace their domestic life over the following decades: 2317 Buchanan Street N.E. from about 1910 to 1915; then 2810 Taylor Street N.E. from about 1916 to 1932 — the house where most of their children grew up and from which many of the

newspaper references to Lo Ella emerge. This was the home to which family reunions and out-of-town visitors came; it was where Albert Ward appeared in 1939 after a 27-year absence, and it was the address the newspapers gave whenever they covered Lo Ella in her public roles.

Four children were born to them: Mary Louise (August 1908), Glenn Hildreth (February 1912), Newell Frederick (January 1917), and Paul Archer (February 1923). Mary Louise's birth certificate gives Lo Ella's occupation as "Queen of an American Home" (probably at the request of Fred). Glenn Hildreth Briggs's birth was particularly challenging: he weighed under four pounds, and his grandmother Mary McCann Hildreth helped care for the family. He survived, grew into a boy soprano who sang tenor leads in school operas, played football, participated in Boy Scouts, and became choir director at the Baptist Church. Paul Archer was born in February 1923; his birth certificate lists Lo Ella as age 40, birthplace New York, occupation "Teacher."

Newell Frederick Briggs was born on January 6, 1917 at 6:15 in the morning at the family home, 2810 Taylor Street N.E. Mary Louise and Glenn were already in the household. He did not survive childhood. On August 21, 1920, aged 3 years, 7 months, and 15 days, he died at Abbott Hospital in Minneapolis. The cause of death was pericarditis, with rheumatic fever recorded as the contributory cause; both conditions had been present for 21 days. Newell was buried at Hillside Cemetery on August 28, 1920. His gravestone, a small flat stone, reads simply: "NEWELL F. BRIGGS 1917–1920."

> *Pericarditis — inflammation of the sac surrounding the heart — was a recognized and frequently fatal complication of rheumatic fever in young children in this era, with no effective treatment available. The combination of rheumatic fever and pericarditis in a three-year-old in 1920 carried a very poor prognosis. The loss, coming a decade before Fred's death and the family's other difficulties of the 1930s, placed Lo Ella and Fred among the many parents of that generation who buried a child to infectious disease before the advent of antibiotics.*

Lo Ella's public life in Minneapolis ran alongside the domestic. In 1921, the Minneapolis Star and the Star Tribune both record her as the leader of a child study group at the Thomas Lowry School under the auspices of the Women's Co-operative Alliance — one of at least a dozen such neighborhood groups formed that summer for mothers studying child psychology. By May 1921, the Star Tribune listed her as a delegate from the Northeast district to the Parents' and Teachers' Council's executive board — part of a citywide effort to place informed advocates on the Minneapolis Board of Education. Her name appears alongside other district

representatives in the city's educational civic life, a pattern consistent with her professional background in kindergarten teaching.

The city directory record for 1933–1944 gives her occupation as "Matron — Court House / County Auditor / Municipal Bldg" — a salaried civic position she apparently held for over a decade, working in the municipal buildings complex of Hennepin County. A matron in this context was responsible for the welfare and supervision of women in public and custodial settings. Her death certificate confirms this professional identity, listing her usual occupation as "Matron at City Mpls Court House" and the industry as public service.

> *The role of building matron in a county courthouse was a common route for educated women into the public sector in the early twentieth century, particularly those with backgrounds in education or social work. The position carried modest but real authority, involved daily contact with the legal and civic apparatus of the county, and in a major city like Minneapolis was a steady, respectable career for a widowed woman managing a family.*

## WIDOWHOOD AND LATER LIFE (1930–1958)

Fred Henry Briggs died on Monday, August 11, 1930, aged 53. He had been at the Minnesota School of Business for over two decades and had served for eight consecutive years as secretary of the Central Avenue Commercial Association. He was survived by his wife, one daughter (Mary Louise), and two sons (Glenn and Paul). His beloved mother, Emma L. Briggs, had died about a month earlier.

A July 1930 notice in the Muskegon Chronicle records that Mrs. Fred Briggs (Lo Ella) had traveled to Stanton, Michigan, with the body of her mother-in-law, Mrs. Emma L. Briggs, who had died in a Minneapolis hospital — evidence of Lo Ella managing a grieving household through consecutive losses in a single summer. She was forty-eight years old and had three surviving children, the youngest just seven.

She rebuilt around work. The city directories show her at 2810 Taylor Street N.E. through 1932, then at 2211 Central Avenue for 1933–1934, then returning to 2810 Taylor Street N.E. from 1935 to 1944. The courthouse matron position spans 1933 to 1944 in the directory record, suggesting she held it through the Depression years and into the Second World War, a period when steady municipal employment was a significant economic anchor. From 1953 she was living at 1025 29th Avenue N.E., the address that appears on her death certificate as

her home for the final years of her life. She lived with Mary Louise and her family from about 1935 to the end or her life in 1958).

The 1939 newspaper story in the Minneapolis Times — "World Wanderer Is Home After 27-Year Absence" — gives a rare and warm glimpse of Lo Ella in her domestic role during these years. Albert (Alla) Ward, who had left the family home at age 14 and not been seen for 27 years, came back after being forced to apply for an old-age pension. Lo Ella had insisted on his return. The reunion was held at her home, where Earl Hildreth of Spring Lake, Michigan, and Carrie Hildreth of Casnovia had driven to Minneapolis to meet him. The photograph of the four — Lo Ella, Carrie, Albert Ward, and Earl — appeared in the paper with the caption identifying "Mrs. F. H. Briggs" by name and position. She is visible as a woman who kept a home that drew people back to it.

The family photographs in the FamilySearch archive include a 1956 image captioned "Hildreth, Briggs, Jensen, and Andersen Family," showing Lo Ella in her seventies among several generations.

## DEATH: JANUARY 24, 1958

Lo Ella Hildreth Briggs died on January 24, 1958, aged 75. Burial was at Hillside Cemetery on January 28, 1958.

The Minneapolis Star carried a brief death notice: "LoElla H. Briggs, 75, 1025 29th Av. NE" — a single line among the day's deaths, as small-town newspapers had once noted the comings and goings of people who mattered locally. She had been in that city for over fifty years.

> *Cerebrovascular accident — stroke — was among the leading causes of death in women of Lo Ella's age in the 1950s, and arteriosclerotic heart disease its most common underlying cause.*

## SUMMARY

Lo Ella Hildreth was a New York-born woman who made her professional life in Michigan and her domestic and civic life in Minneapolis. She trained as a kindergarten teacher at Ferris Institute, married a business school instructor in 1906, raised four children in Northeast Minneapolis, buried a husband and a child, and rebuilt around the work of a courthouse matron through the Depression years and the Second World War. She also led neighborhood

study groups, represented her district on the city's Parents' and Teachers' Council, and kept a home that old friends returned to after absences of decades.

The historical record gives her primarily as "Mrs. F. H. Briggs" — the shape the newspaper social columns and city directories impose on married women of her era. But the courthouse matron position tells a different story: a woman who worked steadily in her own name for over a decade, in a formal public sector role, in the largest city in Minnesota. Her death certificate lists that occupation, not her husband's, as the defining fact of her working life.

## SOURCES

### Vital and Legal Records

Certificate of Death — Lo Ella H. Briggs (name on certificate: "Lo Ella H. Briggs"); State of Minnesota, Hennepin County; State File No. 000876; immediate cause: cerebral vascular accident; contributing: arteriosclerotic heart disease; physician Dr. Carl J. Olson; informant: Mrs. C. W. Gudmunson, 1025 29th Av. NE, Minneapolis; filed 27 January 1958; burial Hillside Cemetery, 28 January 1958.

Certified Copy of Marriage Record — Fred H. Briggs and LoElla Hildreth; Kent County, Michigan; Quarter ending June 30, 1906; Record No. 8416; Date of License: June 8, 1906; Date of Marriage: June 19, 1906; Place: Grand Rapids, Kent Co., Michigan; officiant: John Gordon, Minister; witnesses: Glen A. Briggs, Carrie Hildreth; certified July 23, 1906 and copied by Michigan Department of Health August 19, 1966.

Certificate of Birth — Mary Louise Briggs; State of Michigan; Registered No. 371; Date of Birth: July 13, 1908; Muskegon County; filed July 18, 1908.

Certificate of Birth — Newell Frederick Briggs; State of Minnesota, Hennepin County; Register No. 40035; Date of Birth: January 6, 1917; Place of Birth: 2810 Taylor N.E., Minneapolis; father Fred H. Briggs, age 35, Business Instructor, birthplace Michigan; mother Lo Ella Hildreth, age 34, birthplace N.Y., occupation Housewife; third child, three living; born alive at 6:15 a.m.; physician C. C. Tyrrell; filed January 17, 1917.

Certificate of Death — Newell Briggs; State of Minnesota, Hennepin County; State File No. 21624; Registration No. 3326; Date of Death: August 21, 1920; place: Abbott Hospital, Minneapolis; residence: 2810 Taylor St. N.E.; age: 3 years 7 months 15 days; date of birth: January 6, 1917; immediate cause: Pericarditis (duration 21 days); contributory cause: Rheumatic Fever (duration 21 days); autopsy: yes; burial: Hillside Cemetery, August 28, 1920; informant: Fred H. Briggs, 2810 Taylor St. N.E.; filed August 23, 1920.

Certificate of Birth — Paul Archer Briggs; State of Minnesota, Hennepin County; Record of Birth No. 40685; Date of Birth: February 3, 1923; Minneapolis; filed February 23, 1923; certified copy issued January 26, 1965.

FamilySearch — Lo Ella Hildreth, Person ID KJ52-QF3. Accessed 2026. Sources: 20 (name), 9 (birth), 2 (death), 15 (sex). Events corroborated by Minneapolis City Directories (1912–1957) and census records.

### Newspaper Sources

The Muskegon Chronicle (Muskegon, Michigan) • 23 July 1902 (Ferris Institute kindergarten graduation) • 25 July 1930 (Mrs. Fred Briggs brings body of mother-in-law to Michigan)

Detroit Free Press (Detroit, Michigan) • 11 July 1899 (Michigan Delegation; Loelia Hildreth of Moline listed)

Kent City / Grand Rapids area paper (source unidentified in PDF) • June 1906 ("Briggs–Hildreth" wedding notice, Kent City)

The Minneapolis Journal (Minneapolis, Minnesota) • 26 June 1934 (announcement, Miss Margaret Dartt weds Glen Briggs) • 12 March 1916 (Glenn H. Briggs fourth birthday notice)

The Minneapolis Star (Minneapolis, Minnesota) • 14 July 1921 (East District Mothers Form Study Clubs) • 28 June 1934 (Miss Margaret Dartt weds Glen Briggs) • 29 January 1958 (death notice: "LoElla H. Briggs, 75, 1025 29th Av NE")

Star Tribune / Minneapolis Sunday Tribune (Minneapolis, Minnesota) • 3 July 1921 (Women's Alliance; Mrs. F. H. Briggs, Thomas Lowry school) • 21 May 1921 (Parent Council Endorses Trio for Election; Mrs. F. H. Briggs listed as Northeast district delegate)

Times, the Picture Paper (Minneapolis, Minnesota) • 14 August 1939 ("World Wanderer Is Home After 27-Year Absence"; photo of Lo Ella, Carrie Hildreth, Earl Hildreth, and Alla Ward)

Obituary clipping — Fred H. Briggs (source publication not identified in PDF; Minneapolis, c. August 1930): "F. H. Briggs Dies at Age of 53 — Moved Northeast in '09; Was Secretary C.A.C.A. 8 years; Active in Many Civic Affairs." Survived by wife, daughter Mary Louise, sons Glenn and Paul.

Obituary clipping — Carrie B. Hildreth (source publication not identified in PDF; Casnovia, Michigan, c. 1947): confirms Lo Ella Briggs of Minneapolis as surviving sister.

## Family and Genealogical Sources

Hildreth family genealogy extract — Printed compilation; entry 319 (William C. Hildreth) and children (No. 526 Earl N., 527 Lo Ella, 528 Carrie B.); Lo Ella's birth given as "May 4, 1881" (conflicts with death certificate and FamilySearch, which give 1882); husband identified as "Prof. Fred H. Briggs." Treat birth year in this source as secondary to the death certificate.

Hildreth Family Bible — Chain of custody: Caroline J. Harrison (purchaser) → William C. Hildreth → Lo Ella Hildreth Briggs → Glenn Hildreth Briggs → Walter P. Briggs → Karen Briggs Morgan (current custodian). Lo Ella's notes include: "My favorite chapters in the New Testament are the 14th chapter of St. John and 3th Chapter of 1st Corin. To me the promise In my father's house are many mansions is glorious." Initialled L.E.H. Source in possession of Karen Briggs Morgan.

Letter, Mary Louise Briggs (Andersen) to Walter Briggs — 1025-29th Av. N.E., Minneapolis, December 2, 1959; typed, approximately 2 pages. Provides personal recollections of Glenn Hildreth Briggs's childhood, Fred Briggs's career, Mary McCann Hildreth as nurse, and family history. Note: written from memory approximately 30 years after events; treat factual claims as supplementary to documentary record.

Gravestone photograph — Newell F. Briggs — Flat stone; inscription reads "NEWELL F. BRIGGS 1917–1920"; location: Hillside Cemetery, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Confirms burial location consistent with death certificate.

FamilySearch — family group photographs and linked profiles — Including 'William & Mary Hildreth and family' (August 1907); 'Hildreth, Briggs, Jensen, & Andersen Family' (2 November 1966, tagged with Lo Ella Hildreth among others); portrait of Lo Ella and Carrie Belle Hildreth (undated). Contributed by Karen Briggs Morgan.

# HARVEY SCHUYLER DARTT

*Civil Engineer • Surveyor • City Councilman • Mayor*

WISCONSIN • OWATONNA, MANKATO & WINONA, MINNEAPOLIS MINNESOTA

*Also known as: Harvey S. Dartt • Harvey Dartt • H. S. Dartt*

## VITAL STATISTICS

| | |
|---|---|
| **BORN** | June 16, 1866, Kingston, Green Lake County, Wisconsin |
| **DIED** | May 16, 1936, Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota (age 69) |
| **BURIED** | Forest Hill Cemetery, Owatonna, Minnesota |
| **FATHER** | Edward Harvey Schuyler (E. H. S.) Dartt, (1824 - 1903) |
| **MOTHER** | Lucretia Brooks (1840 - 1876) |
| **MARRIED** | August 26, 1896, Correctionville, Woodbury County, Iowa, to Ella May Haworth (1873 – 1963) |
| **CHILDREN** | Infant son Dartt (July 1897)<br>Mabel Lucretia Dartt (1899–1981)<br>Donna Emir Dartt (1900–1989)<br>Walter Scott Dartt (1902–1962)<br>Harvey Schuyler, Dartt Jr. (1908–1997)<br>Margaret Haworth Dartt (1913–2006) |
| **SIBLINGS** | Nelson J. Dartt (1857–1860)<br>Dr. Walter Scott Dartt (1859–1947)<br>Nettie M. Dartt (1861–1883)<br>Laura Genevieve (1864–1946)<br>Justus Josiah Dartt (1872–1876)<br>Rolland "Raleigh" M. Dartt (1878–1906). |

## FAMILY BACKGROUND

Harvey Schuyler Dartt was born June 16, 1866, in Kingston, Green Lake County, Wisconsin, the fifth of six children of Edward Harvey Schuyler (E. H. S.) Dartt and Lucretia Brooks Dartt. His father, a Vermont native born November 24, 1824, in Weathersfield, had spent his boyhood in Weathersfield and Goshen, Vermont, where an ice-cutting accident left him

permanently lame. E. H. S. Dartt moved west with his own parents to the Fox Lake area of Wisconsin in 1844, attended Ripon College, and taught school before his lameness kept him from Civil War service. He went into the mercantile trade at Kingston, Wisconsin, serving as postmaster and justice of the peace, and married Lucretia Brooks — a native of Erie County, Pennsylvania — in Wisconsin in 1856.

Lucretia Brooks Dartt died at Owatonna on January 21, 1876, when Harvey was nine years old. E. H. S. Dartt remarried, to Caroline (Carrie) Wookey, and a son, Rolland (also recorded as "Raleigh") M. Dartt, was born of that marriage — a half-brother whose later guardianship and death are recorded below.

In 1869 the family settled at Owatonna, Minnesota, where E. H. S. Dartt became one of the city's more consequential early citizens: he entered the nursery business, developed real estate as the proprietor of "Dartt's first and second addition" to the city, and pursued horticulture seriously enough to originate several named apple varieties, including "Dartt's Hybrid." He was appointed superintendent of a state experimental tree station at Owatonna, a post he held for roughly twelve years until his death on January 31, 1903.

Harvey's half-brother Rolland (Raleigh) M. Dartt suffered a breakdown as a young man; on April 8, 1901, their father petitioned the probate court to have Harvey appointed guardian of Rolland's person and estate, "insane," and letters of guardianship were issued to Harvey on May 8, 1901. Rolland died at the state hospital in Rochester, Minnesota, on Sunday, August 5, 1906, at twenty-nine years of age; his remains were brought to Owatonna, and the funeral was held at Harvey's residence on East Broadway, with burial at Forest Hill Cemetery.

## YOUTH, EDUCATION, AND EARLY TRAVELS (1866–1896)

Harvey attended the public schools of Owatonna and graduated from Owatonna High School with the class of 1886, one of the largest classes the school had yet produced. At commencement, held at the Methodist church on June 4, 1886, he delivered an oration titled "National Life." A later reminiscence by his daughter Donna (Dartt) Botts recalled that in his senior year he had gone out to teach a rural school for a term, studying independently before returning to Owatonna to pass his final examinations.

For roughly nine years beginning in the later 1880s, Harvey worked away from Owatonna as what his daughter called an "itinerant map-maker," traveling for the Northwest Publishing

Company of Des Moines, Iowa, and for a mapping firm based in Superior, Wisconsin. Newspaper notices from these years catch him only in passing — a few days home at Christmas 1889, a visit in March 1893 during which the paper noted, with some amusement, that he was "a Cleveland Democrat right through, and is prepared to give good reasons for his politics," and a short visit home from Huntsville, Missouri, in June 1895. He also appears to have briefly worked as a reporter for an Owatonna newspaper during this period, per family recollection.

> *The Panic of 1893 struck a few months into Grover Cleveland's second term, triggering a four-year depression and splitting the Democratic party over the gold standard — a "Cleveland Democrat" in 1893 meant a hard-money, pro-gold partisan, a faction that would be swept aside within the party by the free-silver insurgency behind William Jennings Bryan in 1896.*
>
> *Harvey's later political identity was as a Republican — he ran for mayor of Owatonna two times on the Republican ticket in 1906, and 1907 — which sits oddly with the 1893 description of him as a Democrat and with a September 1898 nominating convention that put him forward as "a democrat, for county surveyor."*

## MARRIAGE AND EARLY OWATONNA YEARS (1896–1899)

On August 26, 1896, at the home of the bride's parents in Correctionville, Woodbury County, Iowa, Harvey S. Dartt, then thirty, married Ella May Haworth, twenty-three, daughter of Howard and Margaret (Shelton) Haworth of Correctionville, formerly of Indiana. An oral history recorded from daughter Donna Botts states that Harvey met "Ella at a boarding house in Iowa." The Correctionville Sioux Valley News covered the wedding as a local event of note, describing Ella as "one of Correctionville's most popular and gifted young ladies" and noting she had taught music in the town's public schools for two years. The couple returned to Owatonna, where the Dartt name was already well established through Harvey's father, and set up housekeeping at the corner of Pearl and Pine streets.

The young couple's first child, a son, was born at their Pine Street home on a Monday morning at the end of June 1897; the People's Press reported the family's joy turning to sorrow within twenty-four hours when the infant died, and burial followed at Forest Hill Cemetery the following Wednesday. It was the first of several losses and gains that would mark the family's history over the following decades.

By 1898 Harvey had settled into civil engineering and surveying as his settled trade, working locally as a draftsman and taking on survey work for the new Steele County plat book. In September 1898 he was nominated for county surveyor at the Republican County convention and he won the office that November.

## SURVEYOR, ALDERMAN, AND MAYOR OF OWATONNA (1898–1907)

Harvey's public career in Owatonna unfolded across nearly a decade of overlapping civic roles. He served as Steele County surveyor from 1898 to roughly 1904, and was elected city surveyor of Owatonna in March 1899, a post he held by repeated re-election through 1907. Survey work of every scale passed through his hands: plats for Blooming Prairie, a new road near Meriden, drainage-ditch surveys for the Crane Creek and Moscow-Riceland districts, and — the largest and most contentious of his projects — the so-called "Big Ditch" through Steele and Waseca counties, for which a judge appointed him engineer in February 1904 at the petition of fifty-five affected landowners.

Alongside his surveying work Harvey entered elected politics. He was elected alderman (city councilman) for Owatonna's second ward in March 1904 and served on the city's hospital board (appointed 1902) and, later, its board of health for many years. In January 1905 he was named receiver of the financially troubled Owatonna Journal Publishing Company.

In March 1906 Harvey stood for mayor as the Republican nominee against the Democratic incumbent, Charles Green. On election night the tally showed Green the winner by two votes, and the result stood for several days — until a city council review of the tally sheets on March 16 turned up a five-vote arithmetic error. The corrected count gave Harvey the office by a margin of three votes. Green, informed of the reversal, declined to contest it. Harvey served a one-year term as mayor, from March 1906 to March 1907, presiding over an administration remembered locally for a strict law-and-order stance on vice and liquor enforcement and for completion of a new $50,000 city and fire hall. A lengthy profile in the Minneapolis Sunday Tribune of February 1907 described him as "jovial and good-natured" but "stubborn enough when it comes to a question of what he believes is right," and noted his claimed mixed Irish, Dutch, French, and "plain United States" ancestry.

> *Small-city "law and order" campaigns like Dartt's were part of a wider Progressive Era pattern nationally: between roughly 1900 and 1917, reform coalitions across the American Midwest pushed municipal governments toward professionalized administration, anti-vice enforcement, and*

> *(increasingly) prohibition, well ahead of the constitutional amendment that would nationalize the last of those causes in 1920.*

Harvey was renominated for mayor in 1907 but was defeated in the March election by Charles Green, 706 votes to 562. Leaving the mayor's chair, he thanked the outgoing council for what he called, in a brief address, "a labor of love," noting that the city's floating debt had been cut from roughly $24,000 to $6,000 during his three years on the council and as mayor.

## CITY ENGINEER OF OWATONNA (1907–1918)

Out of the mayor's office, Harvey moved into the position that would occupy him for the next eleven years: city engineer of Owatonna, an office to which he was repeatedly re-elected by the council beginning in 1907. He was also elected superintendent of waterworks in 1908 (his monthly salary raised from $50 to $60 that July) and continued to serve on the board of health, for which he acted for years as secretary.

His civic and fraternal commitments multiplied alongside his engineering work: he served for decades as secretary and later trustee of the Forest Hill Cemetery Association, held office in Owatonna's Knights of Pythias lodge (including terms as inner guard, trustee, and delegate to the Grand Lodge), and served as secretary of both the Star in the East Masonic Lodge No. 33 and Owatonna Chapter No. 15, Royal Arch Masons. He was, for a period, secretary of the Steele County Good Roads Association, organizing annual conventions on road construction and maintenance.

In the summer of 1915 Harvey took an extended leave from his city post to serve as consulting engineer on an irrigation project for the Modoc Irrigation Company in Modoc County, California, a three-week trip that also brought him to the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco. He gave the Owatonna People's Press an enthusiastic, detailed account of the exposition's architecture and night illumination on his return. The California trip led to a job offer — $4,000 a year, with two years' employment guaranteed — tempting enough that Dartt tendered his resignation as city engineer in August 1915; the council held the resignation pending his decision, and he ultimately remained in Owatonna, being re-elected city engineer for a further two-year term in 1916.

> *The Panama-Pacific Exposition's celebration of peace and engineering progress opened in February 1915 against the backdrop of a Europe already a year into the First World War; the Lusitania*

> *was sunk off Ireland that same May, hardening American opinion even as the fair itself continued to bill peace and Pacific trade as its themes.*

The arrangement ended in September 1918, when Harvey accepted election as city engineer of Mankato, Minnesota, at a salary of $2,100 — a considerable advance on the Owatonna post. The Owatonna council accepted his resignation with a formal resolution of appreciation, and the Mankato Free Press credited his eleven years of service in his home city as the basis of his selection.

> *Harvey's move to Mankato that September fell in the deadliest weeks of the 1918 influenza pandemic, which was then spreading rapidly through Minnesota and the rest of the country, and just two months before the November 11 armistice ended the First World War — both of which were shaping civic life everywhere he worked that fall.*

## MANKATO AND STATE ENGINEERING LEADERSHIP (1918–1920)

As city engineer of Mankato, Harvey continued to be active in the wider engineering profession. At the Minnesota Surveyors and Engineers Society's 1918 convention in Duluth he was elected vice president, and at the 1919 convention in St. Paul he was elevated to the presidency of the society, a position he held through the 1920 convention in Minneapolis, where the trade press again identified him as "city engineer of Mankato." He also chaired the city engineers' section at a 1918 League of Minnesota Municipalities gathering in Rochester.

Dartt resigned the Mankato post in late May 1920, effective June 1. Family records place him afterward as a salesman for Tarvia (a road-surfacing product) in the early 1920s, working out of Mankato while his family lived in Minneapolis; he came home on weekends.

## WINONA AND THE LATER CAREER (C. 1922–1936)

By October 1923 Dartt was assisting City Engineer E. E. Chadwick of Winona, Minnesota, on the specifications for a major sewer extension project — a ten-mile trench system serving some 3,000 new connections. City directory entries confirm him in Winona in both 1923 (as a civil engineer, residing at the Marchants Hotel) and 1927 and 1929 (as assistant city engineer, by then residing with his wife Ella at 150 East 4th Street). His own 1936 obituary in the Winona Daily News states he came to Winona "ten years ago" — that is, around 1926 — and served six years there as assistant city engineer under Chadwick.

> *The Winona directory and newspaper evidence place Dartt working in Winona as early as 1923, three years earlier than the "ten years ago" figure given in his 1936 obituary. The obituary's account of a six-year tenure as assistant engineer may describe only the period of his formal appointment to that title, following an earlier period of contract or consulting work on the sewer project — a plausible reconciliation, though not one the sources state directly.*

By the late 1920s the family had relocated to Minneapolis, at 2747 Seventeenth Avenue South, the address at which Harvey and Ella would remain for the rest of his life. In Minneapolis Dartt continued the pattern of civic and church involvement that had marked his Owatonna years: by 1928 he was serving as treasurer of the Minneapolis District Epworth League (the Methodist young people's organization), based at Simpson Methodist Church. In 1931 he was among eighteen Minnesota architects, engineers, and surveyors who signed a public letter opposing a legislative bill that would have made professional registration compulsory, arguing that the low voluntary registration rate under the existing optional system — 488 of roughly 3,000 eligible professionals over nine years — showed the profession did not want it.

## FAMILY LIFE: MARRIAGES OF THE NEXT GENERATION (1919–1934)

The 1920s and early 1930s brought a run of family weddings that the Twin Cities and Owatonna papers covered in detail. Daughter Mabel Lucretia Dartt married Christ Gasner at the Owatonna Methodist Episcopal parsonage in June 1919 and settled on the groom's farm in Deerfield township. Daughter Donna Emir Dartt married Adelbert Kenneth Botts of Litchfield, Minnesota, in a Minneapolis ceremony on June 23, 1928. Son Harvey Schuyler Dartt, Jr. — by then a graduate of the University of Minnesota's college of civil engineering, following his father's profession — married Mary Virginia Paddock on September 22, 1934. And daughter Margaret Haworth Dartt married Glen(n) Briggs, son of the late Fred H. Briggs, at the family's Seventeenth Avenue home on June 23, 1934, wearing the same wedding veil her sister Donna had worn six years earlier.

A recollection recorded from Margaret Dartt (Briggs) describes the family's experience of the Great Depression in Minneapolis: her father's observation that employers were laying off "one man off the top or three off the bottom," the short-lived and quickly outlawed use of local scrip for money, standing in line for bread, and taking work herself minding a baby and a telephone for an undertaker's family in exchange for meals and a small wage. The account also recalls her sister Mabel and Mabel's husband driving up from their farm to ask their mother for fifty dollars the family did not have to lend.

## DEATH: MAY 16, 1936

Harvey S. Dartt died at his home, 2747 Seventeenth Avenue South, Minneapolis, on Saturday morning, May 16, 1936, at the age of sixty-nine. The Minnesota certificate of death lists apoplexy as the primary cause. Dartt had last worked in his profession in 1931, after some forty years as a civil engineer.

Funeral services were held Monday, May 18, at the Anderson Brothers funeral chapel in Minneapolis, and the body was brought to Owatonna for burial at Forest Hill Cemetery the same day — the town where he had spent most of his working life and served as mayor three decades earlier.

In an unusual coincidence, Ella Dartt's own mother, Margaret Haworth of Fort Dodge, Iowa — who would have turned ninety that July — died in Minneapolis the same week, on Monday, May 18, 1936, and was returned to Fort Dodge for burial.

## SUMMARY

Harvey Schuyler Dartt spent half a century in the overlapping worlds of civil engineering and small-city government. His career began as an itinerant young mapmaker traveling for a Des Moines publishing house, before spending four decades as a surveyor and engineer for three successive Minnesota cities: Owatonna, Mankato, and Winona.

In Owatonna, he served as a county and city surveyor, an alderman, city engineer for eleven years, and a one-term mayor—a race famously decided by a five-vote tallying error. Moving to Mankato, he rose to the presidency of the state engineers' professional society. He eventually closed out his active career in Winona, serving as an assistant city engineer under a younger colleague.

By every surviving account, Harvey was a natural joiner and organizer. He served as a secretary or officer for cemetery boards, Masonic lodges, Knights of Pythias councils, good-roads associations, and a Methodist youth league—seemingly incapable of holding a position without also taking its minutes.

He was also, in his daughter's recollection, a man who never stopped studying; his mind stayed constantly occupied, often with law books picked up and studied late into the night.

Though his professional life was active, his personal life bore heavy trials. He buried an infant son within a year of his marriage and later took on the guardianship—and eventually the funeral—of a brother whose mind had failed him. Yet, Harvey lived to see all four of his surviving children married and settled before his own death in Minneapolis in 1936, five years after his last working day as an engineer.

## SOURCES

### Vital and Legal Records

Certificate of Death — Harvey Schuyler Dartt; State of Minnesota, Division of Vital Statistics, Hennepin County; Registered No. 22436, Local No. 2230; residence 2747 17th Ave. So., Minneapolis; born June 16, 1866, Wisconsin; occupation civil engineer, 40 years, last worked 1931; father Edward Harvey Schuyler, b. Vermont; mother Lucretia Brooks, birthplace not recorded; informant Ella Dartt (wife); principal cause of death apoplexy; buried Owatonna, Minnesota, May 18, 1936; undertaker Anderson Brothers, 1119 E. Lake St., Minneapolis; filed May 18, 1936.

Marriage Record "K," Woodbury County, Iowa — Harvey S. Dartt, age 30, of Owatonna, Minn., and Ella May Haworth, age 23, of Correctionville, Iowa; affidavit of H. Haworth; license issued and married August 26, 1896, at Correctionville, by Rev. J. W. Lothian; filed September 3, 1896.

Marriage License Record — The Sioux City Journal, Aug. 25, 1896, recording issuance of license to Harvey S. Dartt, 30, Owatonna, Minn., and Miss Ella M. Haworth, 25 [sic; other records give 23], Correctionville.

Probate Proceedings, Steele County, Minnesota — Guardianship of Rolland M. Dartt, "insane": petition of E. H. S. Dartt (father) that Harvey S. Dartt be appointed guardian, filed and heard April 1901; bond of guardian filed and approved, letters of guardianship issued to Harvey S. Dartt, May 8, 1901 (Owatonna People's Press, Apr. 19 & May 17, 1901).

Find A Grave memorial — Harvey Schuyler Dartt, Memorial ID 6490372, Forest Hill Cemetery, Owatonna, Steele County, Minnesota; Lot 54, Block 11, Sec. C; accessed via findagrave.com.

U.S. City Directories, 1822–1995 — Mankato, Minnesota, 1921 ("Dartt Harvey S civ eng h 808 N 5th"); Winona, Minnesota, 1923 ("Dartt Harvey S civ eng Marchants Hotel r same"), 1927 ("Dartt Harvey S asst city eng City Hall r150 E 4th"), and 1929 ("Dartt Harvey S (Ella) asst City Eng r150 E 4th"); Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1936 ("Dartt Ella (wid Harvey S) h2747 17th av S … Harvey S died May 16 '36 age 69").

### Newspaper Sources

Star Tribune (Minneapolis, Minnesota) • 5 Jun. 1886 (high school commencement) • 17 Feb. 1907 (mayoral profile) • 26 Jun. 1928 (Donna Dartt wedding) • 26 Jun. 1934 (Margaret Dartt wedding, alternate account) • 20 May 1936 (obituary)

The People's Press (Owatonna, Minnesota) • 11 Oct. 1889 • 19 Jun. 1891 • 10 Mar. 1893 • 15 Sep. 1893 • 15 Jun. 1894 • 28 Jun. 1895 • 10 Jan. 1896 • 28 Aug. 1896 (two items) • 4 Sep. 1896 • 30 Oct. 1896 • 2 Jul. 1897 • 20 Aug. 1897 • 11 Feb. 1898 • 27 May 1898 • 10 Jun. 1898 • 12 Aug. 1898 • 9 Sep. 1898 • 23 Sep. 1898 • 18 Nov. 1898 • 23 Dec. 1898 • 6 Jan. 1899 • 24 Mar. 1899 • 19 May 1899 • 28 Jul. 1899 • 13 Apr. 1900 • 8 Jun. 1900 • 8 Feb. 1901 • 19 Apr. 1901 • 17 May 1901 • 7 Jun. 1901 • 21 Jun. 1901 • 13 Dec. 1901 • 17 Jan. 1902 (two items) • 21 Feb. 1902 • 4 Apr. 1902 • 6 Feb. 1903 (obituary, E. H. S. Dartt) • 20 Feb. 1903 • 6 Mar. 1903 • 25 Sep. 1903 • 18 Dec. 1903 • 12 Feb. 1904 • 19 Feb. 1904 • 11 Mar. 1904 • 18 Mar. 1904 • 10 Jun. 1904 • 6 Jan. 1905 • 27 Jan. 1905 • 24 Mar. 1905 • 8

Sep. 1905 • 12 Jan. 1906 • 16 Mar. 1906 • 23 Mar. 1906 (two items) • 20 Apr. 1906 • 1 Jun. 1906 • 8 Jun. 1906 • 10 Aug. 1906 • 7 Sep. 1906 • 30 Nov. 1906 • 1 Mar. 1907 • 8 Mar. 1907 • 15 Mar. 1907 • 22 Mar. 1907 • 17 May 1907 • 24 May 1907 • 20 Mar. 1908 • 3 Apr. 1908 • 24 Apr. 1908 • 10 Jul. 1908 • 11 Dec. 1908 • 10 Dec. 1909 • 17 Dec. 1909 • 8 Apr. 1910 • 22 Mar. 1912 • 24 May 1912 • 14 Feb. 1913 • 28 Mar. 1913 • 7 Nov. 1913 • 7 Aug. 1914 • 14 Aug. 1914 • 21 Aug. 1914 • 4 Sep. 1914 • 19 Mar. 1915 • 23 Apr. 1915 • 9 Jul. 1915 • 30 Jul. 1915 • 20 Aug. 1915 • 31 Mar. 1916 • 7 Apr. 1916 • 9 Feb. 1917 • 6 Apr. 1917 • 20 Apr. 1917 • 8 Feb. 1918 • 1 Mar. 1918 • 22 Mar. 1918 • 12 Apr. 1918 • 17 May 1918 • 13 Sep. 1918 • 20 Sep. 1918 • 4 Oct. 1918 • 1 Nov. 1918 • 6 Jun. 1919 • 28 May 1920

The Saint Paul Globe (St. Paul, Minnesota) • 5 Jun. 1886 • 9 Mar. 1904

The Minneapolis Journal (Minneapolis, Minnesota) • 20 Sep. 1898 • 25 Dec. 1901 • 17 Mar. 1906 • 23 Jun. 1906 • 4 Jun. 1928 • 19 Feb. 1920 • 14 Feb. 1919 • 25 Feb. 1928

Minneapolis Daily Times (Minneapolis, Minnesota) • 26 Aug. 1900

The Albert Lea Tribune (Albert Lea, Minnesota) • 24 Jan. 1905 • 19 Feb. 1906

Dodge Center Record (Dodge Center, Minnesota) • 17 Jan. 1907 (two items)

Post-Bulletin (Rochester, Minnesota) • 30 Jan. 1913 • 9 Oct. 1918

The Duluth News Tribune (Duluth, Minnesota) • 21 Feb. 1918

The Winona Daily News (Winona, Minnesota) • 23 Oct. 1923 • 19 May 1936 (obituary)

The Minneapolis Star (Minneapolis, Minnesota) • 18 Apr. 1931 • 28 Jun. 1934

Wadena Pioneer Journal (Wadena, Minnesota) • 21 May 1936

Sioux Valley News (Correctionville, Iowa) • 27 Aug. 1896 (wedding notice, "Dart—Haworth")

## Family and Genealogical Sources

"History of Rice and Steele Counties, Minnesota," compiled by Franklin Curtiss-Wedge, Illustrated, Volume II (1910), biographical entry on Harvey S. Dartt, p. 1040. Published county history; treated as generally reliable for the period up to publication but written from information the family itself likely supplied.

Letter/recollection, Donna (Dartt) Botts to family, 1960s. Undated typescript recollection of her father's early life, occupations, and personal habits, compiled by a family member and preserved in the family collection. Used for texture and detail not found in the documentary record; noted departures from documentary dates (e.g., her father's age at marriage) are flagged in the text.

Recollection, Margaret (Dartt) Briggs, undated (compiled, family collection). First-person recollection of the family's experience during the Great Depression in Minneapolis. Used for texture and detail; treated as family oral history rather than documentary record.

# ELLA MAY HAWORTH DARTT

*Music Teacher • Clubwoman*

IOWA • OWATONNA, MANKATO & WINONA, MINNEAPOLIS MINNESOTA

*Also known as: Ella Chandler • Ella May Haworth • Mrs. Harvey S. Dartt • Ella M. Dartt*

## VITAL STATISTICS

| | |
|---|---|
| **BORN** | June 7, 1873, Schaler, Sac County area, Iowa |
| **DIED** | March 6, 1963, Owatonna, Steele County, Minnesota (age 89) |
| **BURIED** | Forest Hill Cemetery, Owatonna, Minnesota |
| **BIRTH FATHER** | Elbridge Gerry "E. G." Chandler (1827–1901) |
| **BIRTH MOTHER** | Caroline S. Foote (1837–1879) |
| **ADOPTIVE FATHER** | Howard Horton Haworth (1840–1911) |
| **ADOPTIVE MOTHER** | Margaret Frances Shelton (1840–1936) |
| **MARRIED** | August 26, 1896, Correctionville, Woodbury County, Iowa, to Harvey Schuyler Dartt (1866–1936) |
| **CHILDREN** | Infant son Dartt (July 1897)<br>Mabel Lucretia Dartt (1899–1981)<br>Donna Emir Dartt (1900–1989)<br>Walter Scott Dartt (1902–1962)<br>Harvey Schuyler, Dartt Jr. (1908–1997)<br>Margaret Haworth Dartt (1913–2006) |
| **BIRTH SIBLINGS** | Elmer August Newell Chandler (1860–1944)<br>George Franklin Chandler (1861–1948)<br>Henry Hartman Chandler (1867–1952)<br>Vestal Noah Chandler (1869–1956)<br>Clarinda Alice Chandler (1871–1922)<br>Arthur Chandler (1876–1908)<br>Golden O Chandler (1888 - ??) |

## FAMILY BACKGROUND

Ella May Haworth Dartt began life as Ella Chandler, born in 1873 in the neighboring Sac and Ida County farm country of northwestern Iowa, the daughter of Elbridge Gerry (E. G.) Chandler and Caroline S. Foote Chandler. Her mother died of heart disease at the family's home near Battle Creek on December 31, 1879, when Ella was about six years old, and just two weeks later, on January 13, 1880, her father formally relinquished her for adoption. The surviving deed of adoption, recorded in Ida County, states that E. G. Chandler of Battle Creek "gave" his daughter, then "six years, two months and nine days" old, to Howard Haworth "of the same county," and that the child would thereafter be known as Ella May Haworth.

Ella's placement was not an isolated decision. The 1880 federal census, taken at Battle Creek that June, shows her already settled in the Haworth household and, on the very next census page, her younger brother Arthur — not yet four years old — recorded in the household of Charles H. Virgil under the name Arthur Virgil. No adoption deed for Arthur has been located, unlike Ella's, but the two children's placement with separate families within months of their mother's death — recorded on consecutive pages of the same small-village census enumeration, with Elbridge himself recorded nearby — makes clear that both of the family's two youngest children were given to new households that winter. Six older children by Caroline — Elmer Augustus, George Franklin, Henry Hartman, Vestal Noah, and Clarinda Alice, ranging in age from their mid-teens to near adulthood — remained in their father's household; only Ella, not yet seven, and Arthur, not yet four, were placed elsewhere.

> *Widowers and widows with large families frequently distributed children among relatives or willing neighboring households in this era, particularly when the youngest were too small to be useful farmhands or housekeepers. A formal, recorded adoption deed like Ella's existed alongside far more common informal arrangements — sometimes called "placing out" — that left little paper trail beyond a census entry under a new surname, as in Arthur's case.*

The adoption placed Ella in the household of Howard Horton Haworth and Margaret Frances Shelton Haworth, who had married in Salt Creek, Tama County, Iowa, November 8, 1865 and celebrated their silver wedding anniversary at Correctionville in 1890. The Haworth's raised her at Correctionville, in Woodbury County, Iowa, and it was under the Haworth name that she came of age. Her connection to the Chandler family was not severed by the adoption: her birth brother, George Franklin (G. F.) Chandler, a hardware merchant of Schaller, Iowa,

visited her repeatedly in later life, and Owatonna newspaper notices as late as 1906 identify him plainly as "Mrs. Dartt's brother."

> *Formal adoption by written deed, rather than through a court decree, was a recognized legal mechanism in Iowa in this period, particularly for older children placed within a existing circle of family or community acquaintance. That Ella's birth family and her adoptive family remained on visiting terms for decades suggests the arrangement was understood locally as a kinship placement rather than a rupture.*

## GIRLHOOD AND EDUCATION: CORRECTIONVILLE, IOWA (1880–1896)

The Correctionville newspapers preserve an unusually full record of Ella Haworth's girlhood and young adulthood, almost entirely because she was one of the town's most visible young performers. From her early teens she appears again and again on the programs of church socials, literary societies, and school exhibitions: singing solos and duets, playing the violin, reciting, and serving as assistant organist at the Methodist Episcopal church. She held office after office in the town's youth organizations — treasurer and later fourth vice president of the Epworth League, first vice president of the high school's Philomathic (love of learning) Society — in a pattern that would recur, on a larger stage, throughout her adult life in Minnesota.

She graduated from Correctionville High School in March 1891, one of two graduates that year, delivering the salutatory oration — titled "Silent Forces" — at a commencement the Sioux City Journal reported drew a crowded opera house. She went on to further schooling at Toledo, in Tama County, Iowa, travelling back and forth between 1892 and 1893, and by the mid-1890s had returned to Correctionville to teach music in the public schools. An April 1896 notice describes "Miss Ella Haworth and her pupils" giving a musical entertainment at the schoolhouse to a full house despite bad weather — one of the last glimpses of her working life before marriage.

> *Music teaching was one of the few professional openings available to an educated young woman in a small Iowa town in the 1890s, and Ella's role directing the music department of the Correctionville schools — as her 1896 wedding announcement describes it — reflects both her training and the standing she had built locally well before she became known as anyone's wife.*

> *Iowa's public high schools and normal schools expanded rapidly in the 1880s and 1890s, part of a national wave of secondary and teacher-training education for women that helped produce the generation of "clubwomen" who would go on to found and staff the literary societies, temperance unions, and civic organizations of the Progressive Era. Ella's own path — high school graduate, normal-school student, public-school music teacher — was well-worn for an ambitious young woman of her time and place, though still one only a minority pursued.*

## MARRIAGE AND EARLY YEARS IN OWATONNA, MINNESOTA (1896–1901)

On August 26, 1896, Ella May Haworth, twenty-three, married Harvey Schuyler Dartt, thirty, at the home of her parents in Correctionville. The Woodbury County marriage register and a Sioux City Journal license notice both confirm the date, and the register names the ceremony's witnesses as Ella's birth brother, George F. Chandler, and his wife, Alveretta (Whitlock) Chandler — evidence that her birth family had a visible place at the wedding itself, not only in the visits that followed in later years. The Owatonna People's Press ran a warm announcement describing the groom as "one of our most intelligent and promising young men," a graduate of Owatonna High School lately employed by a publishing house, and the bride as "a very charming and accomplished young lady" who had led the Correctionville schools' music department. A recollection recorded from their daughter Donna (Dartt) Botts states that the couple had first met at a boarding house in Iowa, though the circumstances are not further documented. The couple settled immediately in Owatonna, Minnesota, a town where the Dartt name already carried some local weight: Harvey's father, Edward Harvey Schuyler Dartt, was an established Owatonna nurseryman and real-estate developer who for years superintended a state experimental tree station in the city. It was into this settled, locally prominent family that Ella now married, and Owatonna would remain her home for most of the rest of her life.

The marriage's first year brought sorrow. In late June 1897, a son was born to the Dartts on Pine Street; the People's Press reported that the household's joy "gave place to sorrow about twenty-four hours later when the child died," and the infant was buried at Forest Hill Cemetery — the same cemetery where, sixty-six years later, Ella herself would be laid to rest. Five more children followed and lived to adulthood: Mabel Lucretia (1899), Donna Emir (1900), Walter Scott (1902), Harvey Schuyler Jr. (1908), and Margaret Haworth (1913) — the last of them given the Haworth name as a middle name, a quiet acknowledgment of the family that had raised their mother.

## OWATONNA: A CLUBWOMAN'S LIFE (1901–1918)

For roughly two decades, Ella Dartt was one of the most consistently visible women in Owatonna's civic and social life, and the record the local papers left of her is, by a wide margin, richer than the record of almost any other activity in her life. She hosted and led the Ideal Literary Club at her home on East Broadway again and again between 1905 and 1915, delivering papers on subjects ranging from Russian history ("Peter, the Great") to Japanese art to "The Romance of Italian Villas." She served the Ladies' Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal church as a regular hostess, held office in the Royal Neighbors lodge (Mistress of Ceremonies, 1904), and rose through the ranks of the Pythian Sisters' Hope Temple No. 32, serving at various points as Excellent Senior and Master of Records and Correspondence before being elected a delegate to the statewide Grand Temple meeting in Minneapolis in 1910. By December 1913 she was secretary of Cedar Chapter No. 123, Order of the Eastern Star. That same East Broadway home was also the site of family sorrow: it was there, in August 1906, that funeral services were held for Harvey's half-brother Rolland (Raleigh) Dartt, whose guardianship Harvey had held since 1901 after a mental breakdown left him unable to manage his own affairs.

> *The overlapping network of women's clubs, lodges, and church societies documented here — the Ideal Literary Club, the Pythian Sisters, the Royal Neighbors, the Eastern Star, the Federated Women's Clubs of Owatonna — was the central institution of civic life for educated married women in small Minnesota cities in this period, offering intellectual engagement, mutual aid, and leadership opportunities largely unavailable to them elsewhere. Ella Dartt's sustained, multi-decade participation across several of these organizations simultaneously marks her as an unusually active and capable figure within that world, independent of her identity as Harvey Dartt's wife.*

Her husband's public career unfolded alongside her own activity: Harvey S. Dartt served as Owatonna's city engineer and, later, as its mayor, and the city's Dartt's Park — still referenced in Ella's own 1963 obituary under the headline "Husband Provided Park for Owatonna" — was land he gave to the city. Family ties on both sides remained close during these years. Ella's birth brother G. F. Chandler visited from Schaller in 1899 and again in 1906; her adoptive parents, the Haworths, by then relocated to Fort Dodge, Iowa, visited Owatonna repeatedly between 1898 and 1914, and Ella herself travelled to Fort Dodge in 1901, 1911, and other years to see them, on one occasion hurrying home "on account of the serious illness of her mother."

Howard Haworth died at Fort Dodge July 10, 1911. His will, drawn up July 5, 1911 (5 days before his death), left his estate to his wife Margaret for her lifetime and, after her death, to "our beloved daughter, Ella May Dartt," with an unusual clause specifying that the property and its proceeds should remain "complete and vested" in Ella "without intermeddling" by her husband. The provision suggests a father taking deliberate care, at the end of his life, to protect his adopted daughter's separate property rights within her marriage — a detail the newspapers never mention but the probate record preserves.

> *Married women's separate property rights were a live legal issue well into the early twentieth century, and a testator's decision to write explicit protective language into a will — rather than assuming a husband would simply administer an inherited estate — was a meaningful, if quiet, statement about whose interests the document was meant to serve.*
>
> *Howard Haworth's will predates by nine years the Nineteenth Amendment's ratification in August 1920, which secured women's right to vote nationally. The two developments — protection of a married woman's separate property and her admission to full political citizenship — were separate legal fights, pursued by overlapping but distinct reform movements, and neither guaranteed the other; a woman could hold protected property under a will like this one for decades before she could vote.*

## MANKATO, MINNEAPOLIS, AND WIDOWHOOD (1918–1936)

In October 1918, the Owatonna chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star gave Ella Dartt a farewell party, presenting her with a large rug and thanking her for her years of service, just as Harvey left his eleven-year post as Owatonna's city engineer to take a new position in Mankato, Minnesota. The years that followed were more itinerant than the Owatonna decades had been: by the early 1920s Harvey had left the Mankato post for a traveling sales job with a road-paving firm, based out of Mankato while Ella and the children kept house in Minneapolis, with Harvey home only on weekends. By the mid-1920s the family had reunited under one roof in Winona, Minnesota, where city directories place Ella and Harvey together at 150 East 4th Street through the late 1920s, before a final move back to Minneapolis, where they settled by 1928 at 2747 Seventeenth Avenue South. Across these successive homes the family marked a string of children's weddings: Mabel married Christ Gasner at the Owatonna Methodist Episcopal parsonage in 1919, just before the move to Mankato; Donna married Adelbert K. Botts in Minneapolis in 1928; and Margaret (to Glen Briggs) and Harvey Jr. (to Mary Virginia Paddock) married within two months of one another at the Seventeenth Avenue South home in June and September 1934.

> *The family's move away from Owatonna came in September 1918, in the same month the influenza pandemic was peaking across Minnesota, and only weeks before the November armistice ending the First World War — a season in which many of the civic clubs, lodges, and church societies that had structured Ella's Owatonna life suspended their normal meetings across the state.*

Harvey Schuyler Dartt died at the Minneapolis home on May 16, 1936, at sixty-nine, remembered in his Star Tribune obituary as "one-time mayor of Owatonna." He was buried at Owatonna, in the same Forest Hill Cemetery that already held their infant son. Ella, listed in the obituary simply as "his wife, Ella M.," outlived him by nearly twenty-seven years. In a stark coincidence, Ella's own adoptive mother, Margaret Frances Haworth of Fort Dodge, Iowa, died in Minneapolis that same week, on May 18, 1936, just shy of her ninetieth birthday, and was returned to Fort Dodge for burial — leaving Ella to bury her husband and arrange for her mother's body to be sent home within the same overwhelming week. Later that year, Wadena newspaper notices place "the elder Mrs. Dartt" on extended visits to her son Harvey Jr. and his wife — the first signs of a pattern of moving between her children's households that would mark the rest of her long widowhood.

## LATER YEARS: 1936–1961

The documentary trail for Ella Dartt's later widowhood is thinner than for her Owatonna years, but it can be pieced together from family records and her children's obituaries. By 1950 she was recorded in St. Paul, Minnesota. At some point in the following decade she lived with or near her daughter Margaret (Mrs. Glen Briggs) at Canoga Park — her residence there is confirmed by a passing reference in the March 1962 obituary of her son Walter Scott Dartt, who died that year in Green Bay, Wisconsin, listing "his mother, Mrs. Ella Dartt, Canoga Park, Calif." among the survivors. But in 1961, however, she was in Minnesota, taking up residence at 117 West Winona Street in Owatonna — the town where she had raised her family and buried both her husband and her firstborn child.

> *Ella's decades of moving between her children's homes in widowhood — Minnesota, Wisconsin, California, and back to Minnesota — were typical for women of her generation. Widow's benefits were not added to the Social Security system until 1939, three years after Harvey's death, and even then provided only modest support; for most widows of Ella's age, family housing rather than pension income was the practical safety net of old age.*

## DEATH: MARCH 6, 1963

Ella May Haworth Dartt died at Owatonna's City Hospital on Wednesday morning, March 6, 1963, at the age of eighty-nine. Her death certificate lists the cause as arteriosclerosis due to senility. She had spent her last two years in the Owatonna home of her daughter Mabel (Mrs. Christ Gasner); the certificate's informant was Mabel herself, signing from that address. Notably, the informant could not supply her own grandmother's maiden name — it is recorded simply as "don't know."

Her death came almost exactly a year after that of her son Walter, and twenty-seven years after her husband's. Funeral services were held at the Conley Chapel with Rev. Henry Friedman of the Methodist church officiating, and she was buried at Forest Hill Cemetery, Owatonna — beside Harvey and, ultimately, not far from the infant son they had lost in 1897. Her local obituary, headlined "Husband Provided Park For Owatonna," framed her death principally in terms of Harvey's civic legacy — a final instance of the pattern, visible throughout much of her adult public record, in which Ella's own decades of independent activity in Owatonna's clubs and lodges went unmentioned beside her husband's name.

## SUMMARY

Ella May Haworth Dartt's life began with a rupture that surviving records only partly explain: she was relinquished by her birth father just fourteen days after her mother's death. Adopted at six years old and formally renamed, she grew up in Correctionville, Iowa, as the daughter of Howard and Margaret Haworth. Yet, she remained visibly and closely in contact with her birth brother for the rest of her life.

Long before her marriage, Ella built a distinct public identity of her own as a salutatorian, musician, and schoolteacher. She carried that same capacity for leadership into forty years of club work, lodge office, and civic hosting in Owatonna, Mankato, and Minneapolis. This public life ran largely in parallel with—rather than subordinate to—the prominent career of her husband, Harvey, who served as a city engineer and mayor.

She ultimately outlived her husband by nearly three decades. Her widowhood was spent moving between her children's homes in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and finally California, before she returned in her final years to Owatonna—the Minnesota town where she had raised six children and buried two of the people she loved most. There, in the same town where her

married life had begun sixty-seven years earlier, she died at eighty-nine in the care of her daughter Mabel.

Ella's name appears in far more historical sources than most women of her generation and place could claim. Read carefully, it is a record that belongs truly to her, rather than merely to the family names—Chandler, Haworth, and Dartt—that were given to her, taken from her, and given to her again over the course of her life.

## SOURCES

### Vital and Legal Records

Certificate of Death — Ella Dartt, Minnesota Department of Health, Section of Vital Statistics; Steele County; residence 117 W. Winona, Owatonna; born 6-7-1873, Correctionville, Iowa; father Howard Haworth; mother's maiden name not known to informant; spouse Harvey S. Dartt; informant Mrs. Christ Gasner, Owatonna; principal cause arteriosclerosis, due to senility; physician O. W. Roberts, M.D.; burial Forest Hill, Owatonna, 3-8-1963; filed March 11, 1963.

Deed of Adoption — E. G. Chandler to Howard Haworth, re: Ella Chandler (renamed Ella May Haworth), Ida County, Iowa; executed January 13, 1880; acknowledged and filed January 14, 1880; Book A, Page 190; certified copy issued July 24, 2007, Colleen Gries, Ida County Recorder.

1880 U.S. Federal Census — Village of Battle Creek, Ida County, Iowa; enumerated June 28, 1880, by Christian P. Lound; records Ella (Haworth) Chandler in the household of Howard Haworth and Arthur (Virgil) Chandler in the household of Charles H. Virgil, on consecutive pages of the same enumeration, with Elbridge G. Chandler separately recorded nearby.

Marriage Record "K," Woodbury County, Iowa — Harvey S. Dartt (age 30) and Ella May Haworth (age 23); affidavit sworn by H. Haworth, August 24, 1896; license issued same date; married August 26, 1896, Correctionville, Iowa, Rev. J. W. Lothian officiating; witnesses George F. Chandler and Alveretta (Whitlock) Chandler; filed September 3, 1896.

Last Will and Testament and Probate of Howard Haworth — Webster County, Iowa, Will Record No. 5, pp. 194–195; executed July 5, 1911, Fort Dodge; admitted to probate September 26/28, 1911; names Margaret Frances Haworth as executrix and life beneficiary, with remainder to "our beloved daughter, Ella May Dartt," free of her husband's control.

### Newspaper Sources

Sioux Valley News (Correctionville, Iowa) • 28 May 1885 • 16 Jun 1887 • 23 Jun 1887 • 30 Jun 1887 • 8 Aug 1889 • 22 Aug 1889 • 7 Nov 1889 • 28 Nov 1889 • 12 Dec 1889 • 28 Aug 1890 • 11 Sep 1890 • 20 Nov 1890 • 29 Jan 1891 • 26 Feb 1891 • 27 Aug 1891 • 7 Jan 1892 • 23 Jun 1892 • 22 Sep 1892 • 29 Dec 1892 • 7 Sep 1893 • 15 Feb 1894 • 24 May 1894 • 28 Jun 1894 • 27 Dec 1894 • 11 Jan 1895 • 20 Feb 1896 • 12 Mar 1896 • 2 Apr 1896.

The Sioux City Journal (Sioux City, Iowa) • 20 Mar 1891 • 22 Mar 1891 (commencement exercises, Correctionville) • 11 Jul 1894 (Woodbury County Teachers' Institute) • 25 Aug 1896 (marriage license record).

The People's Press (Owatonna, Minnesota) • 2 Jul 1897 (birth and death of infant son) • 12 Aug 1898 • 18 Nov 1898 • 30 Dec 1898 • 7 Jun 1901 • 17 Jan 1902 (birth, Walter S. Dartt) • 24 Jun 1904 • 11 Aug 1905 • 27 Oct 1905 • 2 Mar

1906 • 9 Mar 1906 • 7 Sep 1906 • 12 Oct 1906 • 7 Dec 1906 • 27 Sep 1907 • 20 Dec 1907 • 24 Dec 1909 • 13 May 1910 • 14 Jul 1911 • 26 Apr 1912 • 5 Dec 1913 • 7 Aug 1914 • 14 Aug 1914 • 29 Jan 1915 • 30 Jul 1915 • 6 Aug 1915 • 11 Aug 1916 • 22 Sep 1916 • 12 Jan 1917 • 11 Oct 1918 (Eastern Star farewell party) • 6 Jun 1919 (marriage, Mabel Dartt and Christ Gasner).

Blooming Prairie Times (Blooming Prairie, Minnesota) • 14 Sep 1899.

The Minneapolis Journal • 4 Jun 1928 (Botts engagement announcement) • 26 Jun 1934 (Dartt–Briggs wedding) • 21 Oct 1934 (Dartt–Paddock wedding trip).

The Minneapolis Star • 23 Jun 1928 (Dartt–Botts wedding) • 28 Jun 1934 (Dartt–Briggs wedding).

Star Tribune (Minneapolis) • 26 Jun 1928 (Dartt–Botts wedding) • 16 Oct 1934 (Dartt–Paddock announcement) • 20 May 1936 (obituary, Harvey S. Dartt).

Wadena Pioneer Journal (Wadena, Minnesota) • 18 Jun 1936 • 19 Nov 1936 (visits to son Harvey S. Dartt Jr.).

Green Bay Press-Gazette (Green Bay, Wisconsin) • 31 Mar 1962 (obituary, Walter S. Dartt; lists mother "Mrs. Ella Dartt, Canoga Park, Calif.").

The Times (Pennington, New Jersey) • 12 Mar 1963 (obituary notice, Mrs. Harvey S. Dartt).

Unidentified Owatonna newspaper clipping — untitled obituary, "Mrs. Dartt, 89, Dies Wednesday: Husband Provided Park for Owatonna," captioned in family collection "Forest Hills Cemetery, Owatonna, March 6, 1963."

## Family and Genealogical Sources

FamilySearch profile — Sarah Newella May Chandler ("Ella Dartt"), compiled from 31 name sources, 15 birth sources, and family-member linkages; records birth as 7 June 1873, Schaller, Sac County, Iowa, and alternate names including birth name "Ella May Chandler" and adopted name "Ella May Haworth." Accessed 2026.

History of Rice and Steele Counties, Minnesota, Vol. II, compiled by Franklyn Curtiss-Wedge (Chicago: H. C. Cooper, Jr., & Co., 1910), p. 927 — entry on Hope Temple No. 32, Pythian Sisters, Owatonna, listing "Ella Dartt" as Excellent Senior among the temple's officers.

Harvey Schuyler Dartt biography (this research project, completed prior to this document) — drawn on here for details of Harvey's family background, career chronology (Owatonna, Mankato, Winona, Minneapolis), the couple's courtship per a Donna (Dartt) Botts family recollection, the guardianship and 1906 funeral of Harvey's half-brother Rolland (Raleigh) Dartt, and the coincident May 1936 deaths of Harvey and Ella's adoptive mother Margaret Haworth. Underlying vital and newspaper sources for these facts (certificate of death of Harvey S. Dartt; probate record, guardianship of Rolland M. Dartt, Steele County, Minnesota, 1901; city directories for Mankato, Winona, and Minneapolis; Star Tribune, 20 May 1936; Wadena Pioneer Journal, 21 May 1936) are cited in full in that document.

# WILLIAM ARCHER BRIGGS

*Attorney at Law • Justice of the Peace • Circuit Court Commissioner*

STANTON, MONTCALM COUNTY, MICHIGAN

*Also known as: Archer Briggs • W. A. Briggs • Wm. A. Briggs • Justice Briggs*

## VITAL STATISTICS

| | |
|---|---|
| **BORN** | November 26, 1854, North Star, Gratiot County, Michigan |
| **DIED** | November 3, 1911, Stanton, Montcalm County, Michigan (age 56) |
| **BURIED** | Stanton, Montcalm County, Michigan (burial date November 5, 1911) |
| **FATHER** | Alexander Hamilton Briggs (1932 - 1894) |
| **MOTHER** | Rachel J. Lambert (1831 - 1886) |
| **MARRIED** | October 26, 1876, Battle Creek, Calhoun County, Michigan, to Emma Louise Peck (1854–1930) |
| **CHILDREN** | Fred Henry Briggs (1877–1930)<br>Glenn Alexander Briggs (1883–1925)<br>Carleton Hamilton Briggs (1889–1951) |
| **SIBLINGS** | Hannah L. Briggs (1858–1942)<br>Llewellyn D. Briggs (1871–deceased) |

## FAMILY BACKGROUND

William Archer Briggs was born on November 26, 1854 in North Star, Gratiot County, Michigan, the son of Alexander Hamilton Briggs and Rachel J. Lambert. His father, Alexander H. Briggs, was born in Livonia, Wayne County, on 11 December 1832, and made his way to Battle Creek, where he served for many years as a justice of the peace — a role his son would later take on in a different county. The elder Briggs died at his residence on July 18, 1894, while serving his fourth term in that office. Rachel J. Lambert, William's mother died on July 26, 1886; she was born in New York. William had two siblings who appear in the record: Hannah L. Briggs (1858–1942) and Llewellyn D. Briggs (1871–deceased).

William was raised in a family where legal office was a known commodity. His father's long tenure as justice of the peace in Battle Creek supplied both a model and perhaps a push toward

the law. In 1876, the same year he married Emma Louise Peck, William was enrolled at the University of Michigan law school in Ann Arbor, where he studied under genuinely distinguished figures including Judge Thomas Cooley on constitutional law and Judge Campbell on U.S. jurisprudence. An 1876 journal summary preserved in describes the young man copying lectures faithfully, arguing moot court cases, and spending his evenings in the law library — all while writing to Emma and making nightly trips to the post office hoping for her letters.

> *The University of Michigan Law School in 1876 was among the most rigorous in the country, its faculty including Thomas M. Cooley, whose Constitutional Limitations (1868) was a foundational text in American constitutional law. The LL.B. degree Briggs received in 1878 — confirmed by the Bentley Historical Library alumni file — was the standard first law degree of the era, equivalent to what is now the J.D.*

## MARRIAGE: EMMA LOUISE PECK (1876)

On October 26, 1876, William Archer Briggs married Emma Louise Peck in Battle Creek, Calhoun County, Michigan. The marriage certificate records the ceremony with Emma identified as being of Bethany, New York. William is listed as being of Battle Creek, Michigan.

Emma Louise Peck was born in 1854 and would outlive her husband by nineteen years, dying in 1930. Their three sons — Fred Henry (1877), Glenn Alexander (1883), and Carleton Hamilton (1889) — were all born in Stanton or the surrounding Montcalm County area where William had settled by 1880.

## LEGAL CAREER: FROM ANN ARBOR TO STANTON (1876–1884)

William Briggs began reading law in Battle Creek before entering the University of Michigan, where he received his LL.B. in 1878. The transition from degree to practice appears to have been immediate. By August 1884 a Battle Creek paper noted simply that "Archer Briggs is practicing law at Stanton" — a brief notice that establishes he had by then set up in Montcalm County's seat. A surviving business card, almost certainly from the Augusta period, reads: "Archer Briggs, Attorney at Law, Collections Solicited. Augusta, Mich." — indicating a possible intermediate stop at Augusta, Kalamazoo County, before he settled at Stanton.

By November 1884, the Sunday Morning Call of Battle Creek reported that "W. A. Briggs, of Stanton, son of Justice Briggs [Alexander H. Briggs], of this city, has been elected circuit court

commissioner of Montcalm County." He was thirty years old, and had already secured his first elected office. A November 1886 public notice signed "William A. Briggs, Justice of the Peace" in the Grand Rapids Eagle — ordering the discontinuation of a burglary case for want of evidence — confirms he was simultaneously serving as justice of the peace, the role he would hold for most of the rest of his professional life.

> *Circuit court commissioner was a judicial officer who handled certain lower-court functions and preliminary hearings, distinct from the justice of the peace role which handled minor civil and criminal matters. Holding both simultaneously, as William appears to have done in these early years, was not unusual in rural Michigan counties where the legal community was small and multiple offices were filled by the same capable individuals.*

## JUSTICE OF THE PEACE: STANTON (1886–1911)

The role for which William Archer Briggs was most consistently identified in the public record was that of Justice of the Peace in Stanton, Montcalm County. He held the office continuously from at least 1886 through his death in November 1911 — a span of roughly twenty-five years. The Stanton Weekly Clipper's obituary notes he had been a resident of the city for thirty years and had held the justice office "most of the time since his residence here."

The newspapers of the era tracked his judicial work through two kinds of entries: election results and marriage notices. On the election side, the Detroit Free Press reported in April 1898 that William A. Briggs had been elected justice of Stanton in a Republican sweep of the city election; the Grand Rapids Press noted his re-election as circuit court commissioner in the August 1902 Republican convention; and the same paper placed him on the Republican ticket again as circuit court commissioner in July 1904. He was also nominated as circuit court commissioner in August 1892.

On the marriage side, the Saginaw News carries a steady stream of notices across the 1890s and 1900s: marriages performed by Justice W. A. Briggs appear in November 1901, December 1901, February 1899, December 1898, March 1900, April 1902, December 1903, April 1904, and February 1904 — a partial list from surviving records that suggests he was performing several marriages a year, every year, throughout his tenure. The cases before him ranged from petty burglary (the 1903 Grand Rapids Press account of Silas J. Wright of Crystal, caught lighting a match at an alcohol barrel at 2 a.m.) to the routine civil and criminal matters that formed the daily work of a small-city justice.

> *In late nineteenth and early twentieth century Michigan, the justice of the peace was the most accessible judicial officer for most residents. He handled minor civil suits, small claims, and petty criminal matters, as well as performing marriages. A justice who served for decades in the same community accumulated a kind of institutional authority that made him a fixture of civic life. The notice that Briggs was on his fourth term when he died mirrors almost exactly the situation of his father in Battle Creek, who was also holding a fourth term as justice of the peace when he died in 1894.*

## CIRCUIT COURT COMMISSIONER AND DISTRICT JUDGE

Alongside the justice's role, Briggs held the position of circuit court commissioner — an elected judicial office carrying greater authority and responsibility than the justice of the peace. The 1892, 1902, and 1904 Republican County conventions placed him on the ticket in that capacity, and he appears to have served through multiple terms. The FamilySearch record also lists "District Judge" among his occupations, though the specific dates and court are not further specified in surviving newspaper sources. The Stanton Weekly Clipper's 1911 obituary confirms he had been circuit court commissioner, consistent with the electoral record.

The combination of attorney, justice, and court commissioner placed Briggs at the center of Montcalm County's legal life for three decades. The July 1902 Jackson Citizen Patriot caught him at a Fourth of July visit to his sister Mrs. E. J. Hills (Hannah L. Briggs) in Jackson — noting that his brother Lou Briggs (Llewellyn D. Briggs), of Battle Creek, was also expected. It is the kind of detail that emerges naturally from a public figure whose movements were tracked as a matter of course.

## FRATERNAL AND CIVIC LIFE

William Briggs was an active member of Stanton's fraternal organizations. The Saginaw News for January 1900 lists the officers of Marine Tent No. 49, Knights of the Maccabees (K.O.T.M.), with Wm. A. Briggs serving as record keeper and also appearing as a trustee. By December 1901, he was listed as Chancellor Commander (C.C.) of University Lodge No. 79, Knights of Pythias — the lodge's highest elected office. The 1911 obituary identifies him as a prominent Odd Fellow and Maccabee who took an active interest in both orders. Funeral services were conducted by the Congregational church, with the Old Fellows conducting services at the cemetery.

The Jackson Citizen Patriot for August 1891 places "Archer Briggs, K.O.T.M., of Stanton, Mich." at a family gathering with his father Justice A. H. Briggs and wife of Battle Creek, hosted by his sister Mrs. E. J. Hills (Hannah L. Briggs) — a glimpse of family connection maintained across the distance between Stanton and Battle Creek. The Lansing State Journal for February 1890 recorded W. A. Briggs registered at the Hudson House in Lansing, Michigan's leading hotel, presumably on legal or political business.

> *The Knights of the Maccabees was a fraternal benefit society with particular strength in Michigan, offering life insurance and fellowship. The Knights of Pythias was a broader national fraternal order. The Odd Fellows, similarly, combined mutual aid with social connection. Holding active roles in multiple lodges simultaneously was a common pattern for civic-minded professional men in small-city Michigan, and the overlap of fraternal, political, and judicial roles reinforced one another.*

## POLITICAL LIFE: REPUBLICAN CONVENTIONS AND STANTON AFFAIRS

William was a visible presence in Montcalm County Republican politics from at least 1892 onward. The Detroit Free Press of August 1892 described the county convention that year as "the hottest and most bitter Republican County convention ever held in Montcalm County," with 119 delegates and 5 constituents each engaged in a fight over the county ticket — and placed W. A. Briggs of Stanton on the ticket as circuit court commissioner. The Grand Haven Tribune's August 1896 coverage of the county Republican convention lists "W. A. Briggs" among the Stanton delegates, confirming his continued involvement. He was re-nominated for court commissioner in 1902 and again in 1904 without apparent controversy.

The April 1898 Detroit Free Press account of the Stanton city election notes a "clean Republican sweep" — and lists William A. Briggs as elected justice. The same paper in April 1902 records him re-elected justice of the peace. His political alignment was consistent and uncontested in the record: a Republican professional in a county that was reliably Republican throughout his career.

## DEATH: NOVEMBER 3, 1911

William Archer Briggs died on Friday morning, 3 November 1911, at approximately four o'clock. The Stanton Weekly Clipper carried the obituary the same day under the headline "Old Resident Gone: William A. Briggs Died This Morning After an Illness of One Month." He had been stricken with hemorrhage of the stomach one month prior and had not

recovered. He was 56 years, 11 months, and 7 days old — confirmed by the death certificate filed in Montcalm County.

The death certificate lists the cause of death as cancer of the stomach. His birthplace is recorded as North Star, Gratiot County, Michigan. His father is listed as Alexander A. Briggs, birthplace New York; his mother as Rachel Lambert, birthplace Michigan (Livonia). The informant was his son Fred H. Briggs of 2319 Buchanan Avenue, Minneapolis. Burial was at Stanton on November 5, 1911.

The Clipper's obituary described Briggs as a man who had been a resident of Stanton for thirty years, having held the office of justice of the peace "most of the time since his residence here" and for "a number of years" serving as circuit court commissioner. It noted that he had been a prominent Odd Fellow and Maccabee, active in both orders. Besides his widow Emma, he left three sons: Fred H. of Minneapolis, Glenn and Carlton of Chicago. One brother, Lou (Llewellyn) D. of Chicago, and one sister, Mrs. Ed. Hills (Hannah) of Jackson, also survived him.

Funeral services were held at the Congregational church on Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock. The Odd Fellows conducted services at the cemetery. The Bentley Historical Library alumni necrology file at the University of Michigan, which records his LL.B. of 1878, lists his death date as November 3, 1911.

> *Cancer of the stomach was among the most common causes of death in men of William's age in the early 1900s, and there were no effective treatments. A one-month illness from diagnosis to death was not unusual with this condition. The pattern — a gradual decline rather than sudden collapse — gave the family time to gather; Fred Briggs was present as the informant on the death certificate.*

## SUMMARY

William Archer Briggs was a Michigan lawyer who spent thirty years as one of Stanton's most recognizable civic figures. He arrived with an 1878 law degree from the University of Michigan — earned the same year he married Emma Peck — and within six years had set up in Stanton and won his first elected office. Over the following quarter century, he served repeatedly as justice of the peace and circuit court commissioner, performed dozens of marriages, presided over petty criminal and civil matters, and participated in the Republican conventions that shaped Montcalm County politics. He was a prominent Odd Fellow and Maccabee, Chancellor

Commander of the Knights of Pythias, and a figure the Stanton Weekly Clipper thought it worth noting had died.

He died at fifty-six from stomach cancer, after a month's illness. His father had died in the same office — justice of the peace — in the same circumstance of a fourth term, at roughly the same age. The connection is not recorded as meaningful in any surviving source, but it is there: two generations of Michigan justices, each dying in office, each identified in the newspapers by their title before their name.

## SOURCES

### Vital and Legal Records

Marriage Certificate (family collection) — Mr. Archer Briggs of Battle Creek, Michigan, and Miss Emma Peck of Bethany, New York; 26 October 1876; officiant Rev. D. Palmer.

Certificate of Death — William Archer Briggs, State of Michigan, Department of State, Division of Vital Statistics, Montcalm County; Registered No. 20; cause: cancer of stomach; informant: Fred H. Briggs, 2319 Buchanan Ave., Minneapolis; filed 4 November 1911.

Return of Births, Montcalm County, Michigan — Glenn Briggs; born 17 August 1883, male, Stanton; parents William C. Briggs and Emma Briggs, residence Stanton, Michigan.

WWI Draft Registration Card — Glenn Alexander Briggs; registered 12 September 1918; residence: Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

### Newspapers

The Sunday Morning Call (Battle Creek, MI) • 10 Aug 1884 (practicing law at Stanton) • 7 Sep 1884 (wedding guest) • 16 Nov 1884 (elected circuit court commissioner)

Grand Rapids Eagle (Grand Rapids, MI) • 4 Nov 1886 (public notice, People vs. Reed and Hall, discontinued)

Jackson Citizen Patriot (Jackson, MI) • 12 Aug 1891 (Archer Briggs, K.O.T.M.) • 5 Jul 1902 (visiting sister Mrs. E. J. Hills)

Lansing State Journal (Lansing, MI) • 20 Feb 1890 (Hudson House arrivals)

Detroit Free Press (Detroit, MI) • 11 Aug 1892 (Republican county convention, bitter fight) • 5 Apr 1898 (clean Republican sweep, justice elected) • 30 Jul 1904 (Stanton Republican ticket)

Grand Haven Tribune (Grand Haven, MI) • 3 Aug 1896 (Republican county convention, Stanton delegates)

The Saginaw News (Saginaw, MI) • 4 Nov 1901 • 9 Dec 1901 • 26 Dec 1901 • 30 Dec 1898 • 28 Dec 1898 • 17 Dec 1901 • 10 Jan 1900 • 1 Mar 1900 • 21 Apr 1902 • 8 Apr 1902 (justice elected) • 15 Aug 1902 (Republican convention) • 12 Sep 1903 (burglary case) • 17 Feb 1904 • 3 Mar 1899

The Grand Rapids Press (Grand Rapids, MI) • 8 Apr 1902 (city election, justice) • 12 Sep 1903 (burglary hearing) • 30 Jul 1904 (Republican ticket)

The Lansing Journal (Lansing, MI) • 16 Dec 1903 (Glenn Briggs appointed stenographer, Michigan Agricultural College)

Stanton Weekly Clipper (Stanton, MI) • 3 Nov 1911 (obituary: "Old Resident Gone")

Greenville Daily News (Greenville, MI) • 24 Jul 1930 (obituary, Mrs. W. A. Briggs, age 74)

## Family and Genealogical Sources

Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan — Alumni Records Necrology File: Briggs, William Archer; Death Date: Nov. 3, 1911; Degree: LL.B. 1878

Summary of William Archer Briggs Journal, 1876 — William Archer Briggs

Business card — "Archer Briggs, Attorney at Law, Collections Solicited. Augusta, Mich." (family collection)

New Testament title page inscription — family collection; bears name Emma Louisa Peck Barn and associated family inscriptions.

Briggs Family Bible, Genealogy Page — Two notes recorded in the FamilySearch profile for Glenn Alexander Briggs (KRJ9-9NT). Note 1 (Karen Briggs Morgan, August 2013): Glenn died in Detroit; suicide while suffering typhoid; was a salesman; remained unmarried. Source cited: Briggs Family Bible, Genealogy Page. Note 2 (Lori Briggs, February 2017): WW Draft notice dated 12 September 1918 — living in Cedar Rapids, Iowa; suffered a paralytic stroke 15 September 1916; died 23 October 1925 per family bible page. Note: family bible notes are treated as guides rather than authorities; conflicts with the documentary record are flagged in the text above.

Gravestone photograph — Glenn A. Briggs, 1883–1925; Stanton, Michigan (family collection / uploaded source).

# EMMA LOUISE PECK

*Housewife • Civic Volunteer • Pioneer of West Michigan*

NEW YORK • MICHIGAN • MINNESOTA

*Also known as: Mrs. W. A. Briggs • Mrs. Wm. A. Briggs • Emma L. Briggs • Emma Briggs • Emma Peck*

## VITAL STATISTICS

| | |
|---|---|
| **BORN** | 14 November 1854, East Bethany, Genesee County, New York |
| **DIED** | 18 July 1930, Minneapolis General Hospital, Hennepin County, Minnesota (age 75) |
| **BURIED** | 22 July 1930, Stanton, Montcalm County, Michigan |
| **FATHER** | William Odiorne Peck (1828–1898, Virginia) |
| **MOTHER** | Louisa Hallock (1834–1873, New York) |
| **HUSBAND** | William Archer Briggs (26 November 1854 – 3 November 1911), married 26 October 1876 |
| **CHILDREN** | Fred Henry Briggs (1877–1930)<br>Glenn Alexander Briggs (1883–1925)<br>Carleton Hamilton Briggs (1889–1951) |
| **SIBLINGS** | Anna Peck (1857–1869)<br>William Newton Peck (1860–deceased)<br>Daniel Carlton Peck (1864–1926)<br>Nettie Augusta Peck (1865–1948) |

## FAMILY BACKGROUND

Emma Louise Peck was born on November 14, 1854 in Bethany, Genesee County, New York, the eldest surviving child of William Odiorne Peck and Louisa Hallock. The Peck and Hallock families were established New York families: a surviving land indenture from Genesee County records a conveyance from Augustus Hallock — of the same Hallock line as Louisa — to the children of William O. Peck, suggesting the two families held adjacent or related property interests in the Bethany township.

Emma lost her mother Louisa early. Louisa Hallock Peck died in 1873, when Emma was eighteen. Her father William Odiorne Peck lived on; he married Martha Harriet Hallworth (1841 – 1909) in 1890. He died in August 1898 at the residence of Mrs. W. A. Briggs in Stanton, Michigan, aged seventy, of an abscess of the lungs. The notice of his death identified him as the father of D. D. Peck, Mrs. Geo. W. Chase (Nettie Augusta Peck), and Mrs. W. A. Briggs (Emma Louise Peck)

Emma had four siblings: a sister Anna (1857–1869, who died in childhood), a brother William Newton (1860 - ?), a brother Daniel Carlton (1864–1926), and a younger sister Nettie Augusta (1865–1948). The 1968 family letter from "Aunt Mary Lou" confirms the sibling line: Fern [Dephane] Peck's (1895 – 1967) father and Emma Louise (Peck) Briggs were brother and sister, placing Emma among a network of Peck family descendants that extended into Michigan and beyond.

> *The Hallock family name appears in several forms in the documentary record — Hallock on the land indenture, Hallack on Emma's death certificate. This is a minor orthographic variant that does not affect the identification. The Hallock/Peck connection through property in Bethany is consistent with the marriage patterns of rural New York farm families in the mid-nineteenth century.*

## THE BRIGGS FAMILY OF BATTLE CREEK

The family Emma married into was a Michigan professional household with a legal tradition. Her father-in-law, Alexander Hamilton Briggs, was born in Livonia, Wayne County, Michigan, in 1832, and established himself in Battle Creek, where he served for many years as a justice of the peace — the same office his son William would take up in Stanton. Alexander H. Briggs died at his residence on 16 Brook Street, Battle Creek, on July 18, 1894, while serving his fourth term in that office. Rachel J. Lambert, William's mother and Emma's mother-in-law, predeceased her husband, dying in July 1886; she was born in New York. William's siblings included Hannah L. Briggs (1858–1942) and Llewellyn D. Briggs (1871–deceased).

The 1884 marriage of Anna L. Briggs (Emma's sister-in-law) to E. J. Hill of Jackson was held at the family home at No. 1 Brook Street, Battle Creek, at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Briggs. The guest list recorded in The Sunday Morning Call included "Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Briggs and wife of Stanton and Miss Nettie Peck of Stanton" — placing Emma at the ceremony alongside her younger sister Nettie, who was also then living in Stanton. It was the

kind of gathering that knit the two families, Briggs and Peck, together across the distance between Battle Creek and Stanton.

> *The Briggs family home at No. 1 Brook Street, Battle Creek, was the gravitational center of Emma's extended family. Battle Creek in the 1880s was a growing Michigan city, already developing the character that would make it a commercial center. For Emma, who had grown up in rural upstate New York, the Briggs household represented a Michigan professional family with established community standing.*

## COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE (1876)

William Archer Briggs spent the year 1876 pursuing two things simultaneously: a legal education and Emma Peck. His diary for that year records that Emma first appeared as someone William walked home from prayer meetings with in January. By the time he took farm work at his uncle Richmond's place in Parma in the spring, their contact was daily and his diary entries began to carry real feeling. Then by mid-August came the turning point, which William recorded with characteristic restraint: Emma gave him the affirmation to a question he had longed for. They were married on October 26, 1876 in a small ceremony in Battle Creek.

The marriage certificate, an ornate Victorian printed form preserved in the family collection, records the ceremony: Mr. Archer Briggs of Battle Creek, in the State of Michigan, and Miss Emma Peck of Bethany, in the State of New York, joined in Holy Matrimony on the twenty-sixth day of October in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy-Six. It was a quiet affair — only relatives and intimate friends present. During the autumn and winter that followed, Emma's new husband studied Blackstone by lamplight in a rented room in Ann Arbor, answering her letters the same evening they arrived, counting the days until Christmas. The diary closes, the FamilySearch summary notes, with law books on the table and Emma beside him on a sleigh.

> *William Briggs began studying law in Battle Creek, before entering the University of Michigan Law School in Ann Arbor in late 1876. Emma, in the early months of their marriage, was effectively managing a household-in-waiting while her husband completed his degree two hours' distance away.*

## LIFE IN STANTON: THE JUSTICE'S HOUSEHOLD (1878–1911)

William and Emma settled in Stanton, the county seat of Montcalm County, sometime around 1877. Three sons were born in Stanton: Fred Henry in 1877, Glenn Alexander in 1883, and Carleton Hamilton in 1889.

The household Emma maintained was the household of a working justice of the peace. The Saginaw News social notes of the period catch glimpses of Emma's life alongside this: in July 1899 she and son Carlton were making an extended visit to Granots and Battle Creek; in December 1898 the paper noted that Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Briggs were visiting at Battle Creek over the holidays. The rhythms of travel between Stanton and Battle Creek — maintaining the connection to the rest of the Briggs.

Both William and Emma were also deeply embedded in the fraternal life of Stanton. William served as a Knight of the Maccabees and as Chancellor Commander of the Knights of Pythias, and was active in the Odd Fellows. Emma, for her part, held elected office in the women's parallel organization. The January 1900 Saginaw News records Parker Hive No. 114 of the Ladies of the Maccabees installing its new officers for the year: Emma L. Briggs, Commander.

> *The Ladies of the Maccabees of the World and the Knights of the Maccabees were parallel fraternal benefit organizations — the women's and men's branches of the same movement — offering life insurance through assessed contributions. That both William and Emma held officer positions in their respective chapters suggests a household genuinely engaged in the Maccabee tradition, not merely nominally affiliated. The Commander was the presiding officer of a local Hive chapter, an elected position of real responsibility.*

Emma's civic engagement extended beyond the Maccabees. In June 1902 the Saginaw News noted that she had returned from Marquette, Michigan, where she had gone as a delegate from the Stanton chapter of the L.O.T.M. — the Ladies of the Maccabees — to a regional gathering. A delegate to a state or regional meeting held genuine standing within the organization, and the notice confirms that Emma was not simply a household presence but an active civic participant in her own right during the Stanton years.

The civic machinery of Montcalm County ran through the Briggs household throughout these years — Republican Party conventions, fraternal lodge meetings, the justice's court — and Emma's daily life was shaped by its rhythms as thoroughly as by the domestic routines of the farm or the garden. William was re-nominated as circuit court commissioner in 1892, 1896,

1902, and 1904, and re-elected as justice of the peace in 1898 and again in 1902. The newspaper social notes that catch Emma visiting Battle Creek or returning from Marquette are set against a background of a household in which political and legal business was a constant. She kept that household, raised three sons in it, and led her own chapter of the Maccabees from within it — the civic life of Emma running alongside, and partly enabled by, the civic life of the justice of the peace.

> *The Stanton in which Emma spent her adult years was a county-seat town of modest size — large enough to support a legal practice and fraternal lodges but small enough that the justice of the peace and his wife were known figures throughout the community. For a woman from rural upstate New York, becoming the wife of the town's long-serving justice of the peace placed her at the center of local civic life in ways that the newspaper record — social columns, lodge notices, election results — partially but genuinely reflects.*

## WILLIAM ARCHER BRIGGS: DEATH AND WIDOWHOOD (1911)

William Archer Briggs died on Friday morning, November 3, 1911, at approximately four o'clock. The Stanton Weekly Clipper carried the obituary under the headline "Old Resident Gone: William A. Briggs Died This Morning After an Illness of One Month."

Emma was widowed at fifty-six, after thirty-five years of marriage. She had arrived in Michigan as a twenty-two-year-old New Yorker; she now remained in Stanton as the widow of the man the town had elected its justice of the peace for most of a generation. The Greenville Daily News obituary written at her own death in 1930 still identified her, nineteen years later, as "widow of Wm. A. Briggs, for many years the justice of the peace here" — the role that defined how the community remembered the household she had kept.

## WIDOWHOOD AND LATER YEARS (1911–1930)

By around 1920, Emma had left Stanton and moved to Minneapolis to live with her eldest son, Fred Henry. Fred had built a settled life there: he was an instructor at the Minnesota School of Business and later served for eight consecutive years as secretary of the Central Avenue Commercial Association. His brothers had each gone their own way — Glenn Alexander eventually to Chicago and Iowa, Carleton Hamilton to Chicago.

The decade of the 1920s brought grief of a particular kind. Glenn Alexander Briggs — Emma's middle son, born 1883 — boarded a boat in Detroit in the fall of 1925 to cross Lake Erie.

When the boat reached port, he had disappeared. A search continued for months until, in April 1926, the Grand Rapids Press reported under the headline "Body on Island Solves Lake Erie Boat Enigma" that Glenn's body had been found on an island in Lake Erie. He was buried in Stanton. His death preceded Emma's by four years.

The photographs held in the family collection trace the arc of those years. A formal portrait from the 1870s shows a young woman with dark hair and a steady gaze, dressed in the style of the period with a ruffled collar. A later garden photograph shows her standing alone in a long black dress with a white lace collar, holding something small in her right hand. A third image, taken outdoors in what appears to be the 1920s, shows Emma seated in a wicker chair between two younger women standing behind her, an automobile visible in the background. She is white-haired, composed, wearing glasses.

Fred Henry Briggs, her eldest son, died on August 11, 1930 in Minneapolis, at the age of fifty-three. His obituary states that his "beloved mother, Emma L. Briggs, passed away on July 18, only about a month ago" — a sentence that catches the compressed grief of a summer in which mother and son died within weeks of each other.

> *The New Testament held in the family collection — published by Geo. W. Ogilvie & Co. of Chicago — bears inscriptions on its title page in several hands, including "Emma Louisa Peck Born" with a date, and annotations recording the volume's transfer. One inscription reads "Marker for Glenn A. Briggs, Nov 5th 15–1926," suggesting the Testament was used to record Glenn's death alongside family births. Such inscribed family Testaments were common vehicles for preserving vital information in the nineteenth century.*

## DEATH: 18 JULY 1930

Approximately two weeks before her death, she fell and broke her hip. She was taken to Minneapolis General Hospital, where she passed away on Friday, July 18, 1930, at ten minutes past ten in the morning. She was seventy-four years old.

The cause of death on the Minnesota death certificate is accidental: a fractured hip sustained by falling out of bed, with complications that proved fatal after a day of decline. She was widowed, and her occupation was recorded as housewife. Her birthplace was entered as Batavia, New York; her mother's maiden name as Louise Hallack. The informant was Mrs. Fred Briggs — her daughter-in-law — then living at 2810 Taylor Street NE in Minneapolis, whose unfamiliarity with Emma's parents likely explains the incomplete parental entries.

Her body was brought from Minneapolis to Stanton by her daughter-in-law. Funeral services were held Monday from the Congregational church in Stanton. She was buried at Stanton. The Minneapolis Journal's notice was brief: Briggs, Emma — 2810 Taylor St NE, passed away July 18. Interment Monday at Stanton.

## SUMMARY

Emma Louise Peck was a New York farmer's daughter who crossed into Michigan on the arm of a young man studying law, and who spent the next half-century as a fixture of Stanton's civic and domestic life. The 1876 diary her husband kept describes a courtship she was at the center of, though she left no written record of her own side of it. What she built in Stanton was the household of a working justice of the peace: children raised, elections watched, fraternal lodges attended, her own chapter of the Ladies of the Maccabees led as Commander.

She lost her mother at eighteen and her father in her own Stanton home at forty-three. She was widowed at fifty-six, after thirty-five years of marriage. She buried a son who vanished on Lake Erie. She died in a Minneapolis hospital nineteen years after her husband, after breaking her hip, and was brought back to Stanton her funeral. Her son Fred followed her within the month.

The documentary record catches her most clearly in two registers: the social columns, where she appears as Mrs. W. A. Briggs making visits and returning from conventions; and the lodge records, where she held elected office and led her chapter. The 1876 journal her husband kept adds a third register — the voice of someone who waited for her letters and counted the days until Christmas — that places her, indirectly but unmistakably, at the center of a story she did not write down herself.

## SOURCES

### Vital and Legal Records

Certificate of Death — Emma Louise Briggs; State of Minnesota, Hennepin County; Registration No. 20413; cause: accidental broken hip (fell from bed); informant: Mrs. Fred Briggs, 2810 Taylor NE, Minneapolis; filed 18 July 1930.

Certificate of Death — William Archer Briggs; State of Michigan, Montcalm County; Registered No. 20; cause: cancer of stomach; informant: Fred H. Briggs, 2319 Buchanan Ave., Minneapolis; filed 4 November 1911.

Marriage Certificate — William Archer Briggs (Battle Creek, Michigan) and Emma Peck (Bethany, New York); 26 October 1876; officiant Rev. D. Palmer; decorative certificate, family collection.

Land Indenture — Augustus Hallock (and wife) to children of William O. Peck; Bethany, Genesee County, New York; Liber 161, p. 372; family collection. Annotated: "Land Indenture from Augustus Hallock to children of Wm O. Peck."

Michigan Birth Return — Return of Births in the County of Montcalm, for the Year ending 31 December 1883; child: Glenn Briggs; parents: William G. Briggs and Emma Briggs; residence: Stanton; family collection scan.

Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan — Alumni Records Necrology File: Briggs, William Archer; Death Date: Nov. 3, 1911; Degree: LL.B. 1878.

## Newspaper Sources

The Sunday Morning Call (Battle Creek, Michigan) • 7 Sep. 1884 (marriage of Anna L. Briggs to E. J. Hill; W. A. Briggs and wife and Miss Nettie Peck of Stanton listed as guests)

The Sunday Record (Stanton-area, Michigan) • 28 Aug. 1898 (death of William O. Peck, father, at daughter Mrs. W. A. Briggs' residence)

The Saginaw News (Saginaw, Michigan) • 5 Jan. 1900 (Parker Hive No. 114 L.O.T.M. officers; Emma L. Briggs, Commander) • 16 Jun. 1902 (Mrs. W. A. Briggs returned from Marquette as L.O.T.M. delegate) • 25 Jul. 1899 (Mrs. W. A. Briggs and son Carlton visiting) • 28 Dec. 1898 (Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Briggs visiting Battle Creek)

Jackson Citizen Patriot (Jackson, Michigan) • Aug. 1891 (Archer Briggs, K.O.T.M., of Stanton, at family gathering with Justice A. H. Briggs of Battle Creek)

Lansing State Journal (Lansing, Michigan) • Feb. 1890 (W. A. Briggs registered at Hudson House, Lansing)

Detroit Free Press (Detroit, Michigan) • Aug. 1892 (Montcalm County Republican convention; W. A. Briggs on county ticket) • Apr. 1898 (Stanton city election; William A. Briggs elected justice)

Stanton Weekly Clipper (Stanton, Michigan) • 3 Nov. 1911 (obituary of William A. Briggs: "Old Resident Gone"; illness of one month; prominent Odd Fellow and Maccabee; funeral Congregational church with Odd Fellows at cemetery)

Belding Banner (Belding, Michigan) • 22 May 1918 (Mrs. W. A. Briggs of Stanton visiting)

The Grand Rapids Press (Grand Rapids, Michigan) • 14 Apr. 1926 ("Body on Island Solves Lake Erie Boat Enigma" — Glenn A. Briggs, son of Mrs. Emma Briggs of Stanton)

The Minneapolis Journal (Minneapolis, Minnesota) • 20 Jul. 1930 (death notice: Briggs, Emma — 2810 Taylor St NE; interment Stanton, Mich.)

Greenville Daily News (Greenville, Michigan) • 24 Jul. 1930 (obituary: Mrs. W. A. Briggs, age 74, long-time resident; widow of Wm. A. Briggs, for many years justice of the peace; two surviving sons Fred and Carl; funeral Congregational church; Rev. O. W. Carr)

The Muskegon Chronicle (Muskegon, Michigan) • 25 Jul. 1930 (Mrs. Fred Briggs visited sister Miss Carrie Hildreth; brought mother-in-law's body to Stanton)

Fred H. Briggs obituary (Minneapolis; clipping, source publication not identified in family archive) • c. Aug. 1930 (death of Fred H. Briggs, age 53; mother Emma L. Briggs predeceased him by about a month; survived by widow and children; F.H. Briggs was secretary of the Central Avenue Commercial Association, Stanton, eight consecutive years to Jan. 1926)

## Family and Genealogical Sources

1876 Journal Summary — Contributed by Briggs, Michael Patrick; FamilySearch Memories, attached to William Archer Briggs (KV2T-D2N). Summarizes William Briggs's 1876 diary covering his courtship of Emma Peck, legal studies at Battle Creek and University of Michigan, and their October 1876 marriage.

Letter, "Aunt Mary Lou" to unidentified recipient — 15 February 1968; typescript, 1 p.; family collection. Confirms: "Her father and my grandmother, Emma Louise (Peck) Briggs were brother and sister." Provides contact for Mrs. Lillian Potter, Livonia, Michigan.

Marriage certificate photograph — Decorative printed certificate, W. A. Briggs and Emma Peck, 26 Oct. 1876; family collection scan. Officiant signature reads D. Palmer.

Business card — "Archer Briggs, Attorney at Law, Collections Solicited. Augusta, Mich."; family collection. Indicates a possible early practice at Augusta, Kalamazoo County, before Stanton.

New Testament (family Bible) — Published Chicago: Geo. W. Ogilvie & Co. Title page annotated in multiple hands, including "Emma Louisa Peck Born" and "Marker for Glenn A. Briggs, Nov 5th 15–1926"; family collection.

Photographs — Three images in family collection: (1) formal portrait of young Emma, c. 1870s, oval format; (2) garden portrait of older Emma in black dress with white lace collar, undated; (3) group photograph of Emma seated in wicker chair with two younger women and automobile in background, c. 1920s, tagged in FamilySearch Memories as Emma Louise Peck and Fred Henry Briggs.

# WILLIAM COLEMAN HILDRETH

*Butter & Cheese Maker • Laborer • Civil War Veteran*

MICHIGAN • NEW YORK • MICHIGAN

*Also known as: W. C. Hildreth • Wm. C. Hildreth • Will C. Hildreth*

## VITAL STATISTICS

| | |
|---|---|
| **BORN** | June 7, 1845, Jackson County, Michigan |
| **DIED** | April 16, 1911, Casnovia, Muskegon County, Michigan (age 65) |
| **BURIED** | South Casnovia Cemetery, Casnovia Township, Muskegon County, Michigan |
| **FATHER** | Linden Hildreth (1801 - 1870) |
| **MOTHER** | Caroline J. Harrison (1810 - 1879) |
| **FIRST MARRIAGE** | 1870 - 1875, to Minia D. (Mina) [surname unknown] (1849 – 1876, Groton, Tompkins County, New York) |
| **SECOND MARRIAGE** | February 17, 1877, Groton, Tompkins County, New York, to Mary McCann (1849 - 1929) |
| **CHILDREN** | Earl Newell Hildreth (1879 – 1967)<br>Lo Ella Hildreth (1882 – 1958)<br>Carrie Belle Hildreth (1883 – 1947) |
| **SIBLINGS** | Caroline Elizabeth Hildreth (1847 – 1897)<br>Luther Brown Hildreth (1849 – 1922) |

## FAMILY BACKGROUND

William Coleman Hildreth was born on June 7, 1845, in Jackson County, Michigan. According to his son Earl Hildreth, the family's American lineage stretched back to an ancestor who arrived in 1736 and another who served on General Washington's staff during the Revolutionary War. The 1935 Hildreth Family Association genealogy traces William's line through seven generations: Richard[1], Isaac[2], Isaac[3], Jonathan[4], Adams[5], Linden Arnold[6], and William Coleman[7].

His father, Lynden Hildreth, was born in Jackson, Michigan, and helped install the city's first water system using bored-out wooden logs. When the California Gold Rush began, Lynden headed west and never returned. He vanished into California between 1849 and 1851, leaving his family to forever wonder about his fate. The 1870 Census records that Lyndon lived very close to his oldest son (Sampson A. Hildreth) and his family in Sylvania, Lucas County Ohio.

William's mother was Caroline J. Harrison Hildreth, a native of Genesee County, New York. She died on October 10, 1879, in Buchanan, Berrien County, Michigan. Caroline's will, drafted just months prior on July 22, along with subsequent Berrien County probate records, reveals a larger family than other sources suggest. Before marrying Linden, Caroline was widowed by Alanson Jonathan Fox, with whom she had four children: Lucretia, Frances, Louisa, and Alanson Jr. With Linden, she had three more: William, Caroline (Carrie), and Luther B.

At the time of her death, Caroline also held personal property in Montgomery County, New York. This suggests the family had maintained connections to New York State throughout William's life—a thread that helps explain his own relocation to western New York in the 1870s. Indeed, the probate petition confirms that thirty-four-year-old William was residing in Cattaraugus County, New York, when his mother passed away.

## CIVIL WAR SERVICE: COMPANY C, 10TH MICHIGAN CAVALRY (1864–1865)

On February 14, 1864, William C. Hildreth enlisted in Grand Rapids with Company C of the 10th Michigan Cavalry Regiment, formally mustering on March 16. By June 12, he joined the regiment in the field at Strawberry Plains, Tennessee — stepping into a unit that had already spent six months operating in the East Tennessee mountains.

The regiment's service centered entirely on the East Tennessee theater, conducting reconnaissance, screening movements, and raiding along the rugged Tennessee–Virginia–North Carolina borderlands. Throughout the summer and autumn of 1864, the 10th Michigan led expeditions toward Greenville and Bean's Station, pushed through Bull's Gap during Gillem's Expedition, and fought through Carter's Station, Thorn Hill, and Mossy Creek.

The definitive operation of William's service was Stoneman's Raid into Southwest Virginia (December 10–29, 1864). Joining roughly 5,400 Union cavalrymen, the regiment targeted critical Confederate infrastructure: the Saltville salt works, the Wytheville lead mines, and

regional niter works. The 10th Michigan saw heavy fighting near Marion and Wytheville on December 17–18, culminating in the capture and destruction of the Saltville works on December 20–21 — a massive blow to Confederate supply lines.

In the war's final weeks, the unit joined Stoneman's sweeping expedition through Western North Carolina (March 21–April 25, 1865), advancing through Boonesville, Salisbury, and Statesville before crossing the Blue Ridge Mountains to reach Asheville on April 26.

Over the course of the war, the 10th Michigan lost 271 men — 31 killed or mortally wounded and 240 to disease. William was honorably discharged at Detroit on October 3, 1865, six weeks before his regiment mustered out. Still in his early twenties, he returned to civilian life as a veteran of some of the Civil War's toughest late-stage cavalry campaigns.

> *Strawberry Plains, where William joined in June 1864, was the Union's main supply and railroad hub east of Knoxville, and the base from which most of the regiment's expeditions departed. The December 1864 Saltville raid was the strategic high point of the regiment's service: salt was essential for preserving food for Confederate armies, and destroying the works dealt a genuine blow to the Southern war effort in the region.*

## FIRST MARRIAGE AND BEREAVEMENT: GROTON, NEW YORK (C. 1870–1876)

Around 1870, William married Minia D. (Mina) [Surname Name Unknown], who was born in Madison, New York, around 1849. While FamilySearch records estimate their marriage date between 1870 and 1875, the union yielded no surviving children. By the mid-1870s, the couple had settled in or near Groton, in Tompkins County, New York.

Minia's life was cut short in the fall of 1876 when she succumbed to consumption (tuberculosis)—a tragically common killer of young women in that era. Her death left William a widower in his early thirties.

The circumstances surrounding her funeral highlight the bonds of her family. According to a notice in the Groton Journal (reprinted in the Buchanan Record on March 15, 1877), her funeral at the Groton Baptist Church was postponed for months until February 1877. The family delayed the service specifically to allow Minia's father time to travel from Canada. In the winter of 1876, such a journey would have been arduous and unpredictable, heavily dependent on volatile weather and shifting rail connections.

> *Consumption (pulmonary tuberculosis) was the leading cause of adult death in nineteenth-century America, and a long illness of this kind would have been a slow, visible decline well-known to the community. Travel from Canada in 1876 was not quick. That Minia's family held the service open for her father says something about the distances these families bridged and the importance they placed on proper farewell. Her family's Canadian connections have not been further established from surviving sources.*

## SECOND MARRIAGE: MARY MCCANN (1877)

On February 17, 1877, William married Mary McCann in Groton, Tompkins County, New York. Born on October 21, 1849, in Newburgh, Orange County, Mary was the youngest daughter of Thomas McCann (1800–1853) and Susan Meloy (1807–1863), Irish immigrants who had settled in the Hudson Valley. Orphaned before the age of fourteen, Mary eventually built a life with William, and the couple went on to have three children: Earl Newell (born November 11, 1879), Lo Ella (born May 3, 1881), and Carrie Belle (born May 1, 1883).

The family continued to move westward over the years. The 1880 census recorded them in Dayton, Cattaraugus County, New York; by the late 1890s, they had moved to Moline, Michigan, before finally settling in Casnovia, Muskegon County, by 1910.

## OCCUPATION AND LIFE IN NEW YORK AND MICHIGAN (C. 1865–1911)

Earl Hildreth's 1960 letter provides the clearest picture of his father's working life. William was a butter and cheese maker for most of his adult years — a skilled trade in the dairy country of western New York and Michigan — with two exceptions: about one year on a farm, and two years working for the Niles Paper Company at Niles, Michigan. The death certificate's entry of "Laborer" understates what Earl describes as a lifetime's craft.

His movements can be traced through a sequence of communities that Earl named in order: Groton, New York; Dayton, New York; Moons Station, New York; then across to Michigan — Moline, Kent City, and finally Casnovia, "where he was killed by a horse." The 1900 census places the family in ED 7, Dorr Township, Allegan County; the Buchanan Record notices of December 1897 and January 1899 confirm Moline; and by 1910 the family had settled in Casnovia, Muskegon County. Kent City, in Kent County just north of Allegan County, fits naturally into the sequence between Moline and Casnovia as the family moved steadily northward.

> *Butter and cheese making in the late nineteenth century was a recognized trade, not simply farm work. Western New York — where the Hildreth family lived in the 1870s and 1880s, in communities like Groton, Dayton, and Moons Station — was significant dairy country, and creameries employed skilled makers who moved from one operation to another across the region. The transition to Michigan followed the same pattern: Moline, Kent City, and Casnovia all sat within the western Michigan dairy belt. The two years at the Niles Paper Company represent the only documented departure from the trade.*

## DEATH: APRIL 16, 1911

William Coleman Hildreth died on April 16, 1911, in Casnovia, Muskegon County, Michigan. He was sixty-five years old. The Michigan death certificate, signed by a physician who had attended him from April 13th through April 16th records the cause of death as concussion of the brain due to what appears to be a kick from a horse.

He was the parent of three children, all living at the time of his death. He was buried on April 18, 1911, at South Casnovia Cemetery, Casnovia, Michigan.

> *Death from a kick to the head by a horse was not uncommon among working men of William's generation. Horses were essential to farm and labor work, and the proximity of men to large animals in confined spaces — barns, yards, stables — created regular opportunities for fatal accidents. There were no neurosurgical interventions available for traumatic brain injury in 1911; a man struck hard enough to suffer a fatal cerebral concussion had, in practical terms, no recourse. The physician who certified the cause attended him for three days, suggesting a period of unconsciousness or decline before death.*

## SUMMARY

William Coleman Hildreth was a Michigan-born dairy tradesman of the Civil War generation whose life was shaped by loss and movement from its earliest years. His father Lynden disappeared into the California Gold Rush when William was a toddler and was never heard from again. William grew up in Jackson County and Berrien County, enlisted as a cavalryman at Grand Rapids in 1864, served in Tennessee, and came home in 1865 to make his way as a butter and cheese maker — a trade he followed through a long sequence of communities in western New York and Michigan: Groton, Dayton, Moons Station, Moline, Kent City, and finally Casnovia, where a horse killed him in April 1911.

He married twice — losing his first wife, Minia, to tuberculosis in Groton in 1876, then marrying Mary McCann in the same town the following February. Mary was a New York Irish immigrant's daughter who had already been married once before, had a young son, and had come of age as an orphan navigating the Hudson Valley and Brooklyn on her own resources. She brought more life experience to the marriage than the bare vital statistics suggest. Together they raised three children across a westward progression of dairy communities, ending at Casnovia, where Mary would outlive William by eighteen years, hold civic office in the local lodge, and preside over a household that became a gathering point for their adult children until her own death in May 1929.

The gravestone reads WILL C. 1845–1911. The genealogy erroneously says June 7, 1844 — impossible given his parents married September 1, 1844. Earl's letter settles the question: "My father: Born 7 June 1845." He was sixty-five years old when a horse ended his life in Casnovia. "The Hildrethes," Earl wrote to his nephew in 1960, "are a rather illusive Clan and hard to trace" — and he was right

## SOURCES

### Vital and Legal Records

Michigan. Adjutant-General's Department. Record of Service of Michigan Volunteers in the Civil War, 1861–1865. [Kalamazoo, Mich.]: Ihling Bros. & Everard, 1905. — Hildreth, William C.: Company C, Tenth Cavalry; enlisted Feb. 14, 1864, Grand Rapids, age 20; mustered Mar. 16, 1864; joined regiment Strawberry Plains, Tenn., June 12, 1864; discharged Detroit, Oct. 3, 1865. Accessed via Ancestry.com record screenshot, June 2026.

Probate Court Records, Estate of Caroline J. Hildreth — Berrien County Probate Court, State of Michigan; c. 1879–1880. Includes: Petition for Administrator (Dec. 15, 1879, filed by Luther B. Hildreth); Petition for Probate of Will (Nov. 13, 1879); Last Will and Testament of Caroline J. Hildreth (dated July 22, 1879, witnessed by John M. Hess and Daniel E. Heinman); Codicil (dated July 22, 1879, witnessed by John W. Bristle and Daniel E. Heinman); Affidavits contesting the will (Dec. 15, 1879, signed by Lucretia S. Howe, Louisa J. Hamilton, Alanson J. Fox, and Luther B. Hildreth); Orders of the Court appointing Alanson J. Fox of Niles as administrator (Jan. 26, 1880); Administrator's bond (Feb. 1880); Affidavits of Publication in the Berrien County Record; Inventory of estate. Judge of Probate: Alexander B. Leeds.

Certificate of Death — William C. Hildreth; State of Michigan, Department of State, Division of Vital Statistics; Muskegon County, Casnovia Township; Registered No. 5; died April 16, 1911; cause: concussion of brain; informant: Earl Hildreth, Muskegon; filed April 17, 1911.

### Newspaper Sources

Buchanan Record (Buchanan, Michigan) • Mar. 15, 1877 (funeral of Mrs. Wm. C. Hildreth, Groton, N.Y., died of consumption) • Dec. 30, 1897 (Wm. C. Hildreth of Moline visiting relatives) • Jan. 5, 1899 (Mr. Wm. C. Hildreth and wife of Moline visiting relatives).

## Family and Genealogical Sources

Letter, Earl Newell Hildreth to Walter Paul Briggs — 633 North State St., Alma, Michigan; February 22, 1960. Two pages, handwritten. Provides birth and death dates for William C. Hildreth and Mary McCann Hildreth; birthplaces; paternal grandfather Lynden Hildreth (Jackson, Michigan; disappeared in California Gold Rush 1849–51); maternal grandparents Thomas McCann and Mary ?, born in Scotland; William's occupation as butter and cheese maker; full sequence of residences (Groton, Dayton, Moons Station NY; Moline, Kent City, Casnovia Mich.); Niles Paper Company employment; and family notes on the Hildreth lineage.

Gravestone photograph — Family stone: HILDRETH; individual marker: WILL C. 1845–1911. South Casnovia Cemetery, Casnovia, Muskegon County, Michigan (family collection / uploaded source PDF).

Portrait photograph — William C. Hildreth and Mary McCann Hildreth; annotated in manuscript: "William C. Hildreth" / "Mary McCann" (family collection / uploaded source PDF).

Hildreth Family Association (1935) — Entry No. 319: William C.[7] Hildreth; b. June 7, 1844, Buchanan, Mich.; d. Apr. 16, 1911; m. Mary McCann, 1877; children Earl N., Lo Ella, Carrie B. (FamilySearch Memories).

FamilySearch — William Coleman Hildreth (LZG7-6QT); vitals: b. 7 June 1845, Jackson, Michigan; d. 16 April 1911, Casnovia, Muskegon, Michigan; burial: 18 April 1911, South Casnovia Cemetery. Residence events: Jackson Co. 1850; Buchanan, Berrien Co. 1860; Michigan 1870; Groton, Tompkins Co., New York 1874 and 1875; Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., New York 1880; ED 7 Dorr Township, Allegan Co., Michigan 1900; Casnovia, Michigan 1910. Accessed via uploaded screenshots, June 2026.

# MARY MCCANN

*Farmer's Wife • West Michigan Pioneer*

NEW YORK • MICHIGAN

*Also known as: Mary Ward • Mary Hildreth • Mrs. W. C. Hildreth • Mrs. Mary Hildreth*

## VITAL STATISTICS

| | |
|---|---|
| **BORN** | 21 October 1849, Newburgh, Orange County, New York |
| **DIED** | 19 May 1929, Grand Rapids, Kent County, Michigan (age 79) |
| **BURIAL** | South Casnovia Cemetery, Casnovia, Muskegon County, Michigan (29 May 1929) |
| **FATHER** | Thomas McCann (1800 - 1853) |
| **MOTHER** | Susan Meloy (1807 - 1863) |
| **FIRST MARRIAGE** | c. 1867, Brooklyn, Kings County, New York, to Edward Ward (1845 - ?) |
| **SECOND MARRIAGE** | 17 February 1877, Groton, Tompkins County, New York, to William Coleman Hildreth (1844–1911) |
| **CHILDREN** | With Edward Ward:<br>Albert Ward (1869–1944)<br><br>With William Coleman Hildreth:<br>Earl Newell Hildreth (1879–1967)<br>Lo Ella Hildreth (1882–1958)<br>Carrie Belle Hildreth (1888–1947) |
| **SIBLINGS** | John McCann (1832–?)<br>James McCann (1833–1868)<br>Alexander McCann (1836–1873)<br>Henry McCann (1840–1905)<br>Thomas McCann (1842–1880)<br>Robert McCann (1845–1923) |

## FAMILY BACKGROUND

Mary McCann was born in October 1849 in Newburgh, Orange County, New York, the youngest daughter of Thomas McCann and Susan Meloy, both Irish-born immigrants. Thomas and Susan had married at the Dutch Reformed Church in Montgomery, Orange County, New York on June 20, 1831 — a detail that speaks to the interdenominational world of the Hudson Valley Irish community in that era, where immigrant families commonly used whatever Protestant congregation was most accessible. Mary was the last of seven children, born nearly two decades after her eldest brother John. By the time she was a teenager, both parents were dead — Thomas on August 17, 1853, Susan on June2, 1863 — and the family had dispersed.

Orphaned young and with her brothers dispersed, Mary came of age largely on her own resources. The family's Irish origins placed her within the substantial community of famine-era and pre-famine immigrants who had settled in the Hudson Valley. Newburgh was a river town of modest prosperity, and the McCanns were working people of the respectable immigrant class. By her late teens, Mary was in Brooklyn — the first of several moves that would eventually bring her to the farming country of west Michigan.

## FIRST MARRIAGE: EDWARD WARD (C. 1867)

Around 1867 when Mary was about 18, she married Edward Ward in Brooklyn, Kings County, New York. Ward was born in 1845. He was included on the 1870 New York Census (5th Ward (South Part), Brooklyn, Kings County, New York). His employment was recorded as a machinist, appeared on the 1870. The marriage produced one child: Albert Ward, born in 1869, who lived until 1944. His name appeared on the census record.

What became of Edward Ward is not established in surviving sources. By 1877 Mary was marrying again, which implies Ward had either died or the first marriage had ended before that date. No death or divorce record has been located. The Orange County guardianship document — a legal instrument issued in 1868 appointing her brother Alexander McCann as guardian of 'Mary Ward, a minor' — confirms that she had already taken the surname Ward by October 1867 and was still subject to guardianship of her estate until age twenty-one. That she required a formal guardian so soon after marriage speaks to how young and without family resources she was at this stage of her life.

> *The 1868 guardianship document appoints Alexander McCann as general guardian of 'Mary Ward, a minor residing in the County of Orange, of the age of nineteen years, October 20, 1867.' The document was issued from the Surrogate's Court of Orange County, witnessed by Gilbert O. Hulse, Surrogate. Alexander, her appointed guardian, died in 1873 — leaving Mary without her nearest surviving family protector several years before her second marriage.*

## SECOND MARRIAGE AND THE MOVE TO MICHIGAN (1877–C. 1900)

On February 17, 1877, Mary McCann Ward married William Coleman Hildreth at Groton, Tompkins County, New York. She was twenty-seven, a widow or divorcee with a young son; he was a Michigan man, then about thirty-two, from a large and established family whose New England lineage the Hildreth genealogists had traced back several generations. The ceremony took place in Tompkins County — away from both the Hildreth family's Michigan roots and Mary's Orange County origins, which suggests the couple was living in that part of upstate New York at the time.

For Mary, the marriage was a new beginning in almost every respect. She acquired not just a husband but entry into an established Michigan family network — a considerable change from the orphaned Brooklyn world of her first marriage. Earl's 1960 letter to his nephew Walter describes his father's occupation as butter and cheese maker and traces the family's sequence of residences through Groton, Dayton, Moons Station NY, Moline, Kent City, and Casnovia, Michigan — a westward progression that maps onto the census record, though the letter's details are taken here as a guide rather than as authoritative, given the distance of Earl's memory from the events.

The years immediately following the marriage produced three children: Earl Newell (November 11, 1879), Lo Ella (born May 3, 1881), and Carrie Belle (born May 1, 1883). The 1880 census places the family in Dayton, Cattaraugus County, New York — still moving westward across the state. By the mid-1890s they had crossed into Michigan, settling first in the Allegan County area. A social note in the Buchanan Record for January 1899 places 'Mr. Wm. C. Hildreth and wife of Moline' visiting relatives in Buchanan — a brief glimpse of Mary, always identified as 'wife' in the newspaper convention of the era, navigating the social world of her husband's home state.

By 1900 the family was in Dorr Township, Allegan County; by 1910 they had settled in Casnovia, Kent County, where they would remain.

> *The 1960 letter from Earl Newell Hildreth to his nephew Walter Paul Briggs (633 North State St., Alma, Michigan, February 22) is a two-page handwritten document providing family history details — birth and death dates, residences, William's occupation, and genealogical notes on both the Hildreth and McCann lines. Earl states that Mary's parents were 'born in Scotland,' which conflicts with the FamilySearch identification of both as Irish-born; the FamilySearch record is preferred. Also, McCann is an Irish last name. The letter is most useful for the residence sequence (Groton → Dayton → Moons Station NY → Moline → Kent City → Casnovia), which is consistent with the census evidence and not contradicted by other sources.*

## MICHIGAN YEARS: CASNOVIA, KENT COUNTY (C. 1900–1929)

By 1910 the Hildreths had settled in Casnovia, a small village in northeastern Kent County, Michigan — dairy and fruit country with a close-knit Protestant community life — and it was here that Mary would spend the last three decades of her life. When William died on April 16, 1911, recorded on the death certificate as cause of death concussion of brain, Mary was sixty-one years old. She had been a wife for thirty-four years. She would now be a widow for eighteen.

What the surviving record captures of Mary in these years is largely the texture of her social and civic presence. A January 1914 notice in the Grand Rapids Press recorded the installation of officers at the Casnovia Lodge of the L.O.T.M.M. (Ladies of the Tent, Maccabees of the World), with Mary Hildreth serving as Great Chaplain — a role of spiritual dignity within the lodge hierarchy. It is the clearest evidence that Mary, now in her mid-sixties and living independently, had built a standing of her own in the Casnovia community.

> *The Ladies of the Maccabees (L.O.T.M.M.) was one of the largest women's fraternal benefit organizations in the United States in the early twentieth century, founded in Michigan in 1892. It offered life insurance and mutual aid to women members and its lodges were a significant part of the civic fabric of rural Michigan communities. The role of Great Chaplain was a position of recognized standing within the lodge's officer structure.*

## WIDOWHOOD AND LATER LIFE (1911–1929)

The household Mary maintained at Casnovia after William's death became the center of a steady traffic of family visits: her son Earl, who had settled in Grand Rapids; her daughter Lo Ella, in Minneapolis; and her daughter Carrie Belle, who remained at Casnovia and never married, living alongside her mother until the end. The picture that emerges from the

Muskegon Chronicle social columns is of a woman at the heart of a family web — visited, worried over, and returned to, season after season.

In October 1920, the Niles Daily Star noted Mrs. Mary Hildreth of Casnovia visiting Mrs. C. J. Fox, returning home a few days later. By 1928 the social notes came in a more anxious register. March brought Earl and family for Sunday visits; May reported that Mrs. Mary Hildreth 'who has been quite ill, is improving.' In August, Mrs. Fred Briggs and her son Paul returned to Minneapolis after an extended stay at the home of Mrs. Briggs's mother and sister, Miss Carrie Hildreth. In September, Mary and Carrie attended a Hildreth family reunion at Paw Paw.

The autumn of 1928 brought a more serious decline. By December, Lo Ella had come from Minneapolis to care for her mother, who had 'been very ill.' The Chronicle reported gradual improvement, and January 1929 found Mary spending Christmas with Earl in Grand Rapids. The early months of 1929 continued in the same rhythm: Earl spending weekends at Casnovia, Mrs. M. L. Stickney of Grand Rapids spending a week with Mary, the F. R. Davis family calling on Sunday evenings. In April the Chronicle noted briefly that she was better. In May she and Carrie attended a birthday dinner in Grand Rapids for M. J. Stickney — and Mary stayed on for a longer visit.

On 17 May 1929, the Muskegon Chronicle ran a front notice under the headline 'MRS. HILDRETH NEAR DEATH IN HOSPITAL': Mary Hildreth, 80, a pioneer of the Casnovia section, was in St. Mary's Hospital, Grand Rapids, in a critical condition. Two days later, on Sunday May 19, 1929, she died there.

## DEATH: MAY 19, 1929

Mary Hildreth died on Sunday, May 19, 1929, at St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Rapids, Kent County, Michigan, after being critically ill for nearly a week. The Muskegon Chronicle's brief obituary, published on May 20 under the headline 'MRS. HILDRETH, OLD CASNOVIA RESIDENT, DIES,' described her simply as '80 years old, long resident of this village.'

The death certificate, filed by her son Earl N. Hildreth of 2207 Harrison Avenue S.W., Grand Rapids, records the cause of death as broncho-pneumonia, with debility as a secondary contributing cause of approximately three years' duration — pointing to a prolonged decline.

The certificate records her parents as born in Scotland; a detail almost certainly drawn from imprecise family memory rather than verified knowledge.

> *The death certificate's recording of Scotland as birthplace for both parents almost certainly reflect the limits of Earl's knowledge of grandparents, he is unlikely to have known personally. The same error appears in his 1960 letter to Walter Briggs. Both documents place the confusion with Earl as informant rather than with the underlying facts. FamilySearch identifies Thomas McCann and Susan Meloy as Irish-born across multiple independent sources, and that identification is taken as the more reliable one.*

Funeral services were held Wednesday, 22 May 1929, at the home in Casnovia, with burial in South Casnovia Cemetery, Casnovia, Muskegon County. She was survived by her son Earl of Grand Rapids and two daughters — Miss Carrie Hildreth of Casnovia, and Mrs. Fred Briggs (Lo Ella) of Minneapolis.

## SUMMARY

Mary McCann was a New York Irish immigrant's daughter who came of age as an orphan, married twice, raised four children, and spent the last thirty years of her life as the quiet matriarch of a small Michigan village. The record she left is thin in the way that women's records of this era tend to be thin — she appears in newspaper social columns as 'Mrs. Hildreth,' or as the mother at whose home visiting children gathered, or as the patient who was ill and then improving. She is rarely named first. The biography of her husband, and of the town, and of her children's comings and goings, surrounds and partly obscures her own.

What can be said with confidence is this: she outlived both husbands and most of her siblings; she held civic office in the Casnovia lodge long after she was widowed; she maintained a household that became a gathering point for three adult children and their families across nearly two decades; and she endured a prolonged final illness with her family rotating through to care for her. When the Muskegon Chronicle described her as 'a pioneer of this section' at the moment of her death, it was acknowledging something real — a woman who had arrived in Michigan as a mature adult and put down roots that held for thirty years.

# SOURCES

## Vital and Legal Records

Certificate of Death — Mary Hildreth; State of Michigan, Department of Health, Division of Vital Statistics; Register No. 715; Kent County; died 19 May 1929; principal cause: broncho-pneumonia; secondary: debility; physician Dr. Clymor Veenboer, M.D., 412 Medical Arts Building, Grand Rapids; informant: Earl N. Hildreth, 2207 Harrison Ave. S.W., Grand Rapids; filed 19 May 1929.

Guardianship Document — People of the State of New York, Orange County Surrogate's Court: appointment of Alexander McCann as general guardian of Mary Ward, minor, age nineteen, October 20, 1867; witnessed Gilbert O. Hulse, Surrogate; issued 1868.

FamilySearch profiles — Mary McCann (LZG7-6WH); Thomas McCann (2778-ZLL); Susan Meloy (LZG7-6ZN); Edward Ward (KZ14-TQS); William Coleman Hildreth (LZG7-6QT); accessed 2024–2025. Vital data, parent and sibling links, spouse and children links, and residence events.

## Newspaper Sources

Buchanan Record (Buchanan, Michigan) • Mar. 15, 1877 (funeral of Mrs. Wm. C. Hildreth, Groton, N.Y., died of consumption) • Dec. 30, 1897 (Wm. C. Hildreth of Moline visiting relatives) • Jan. 5, 1899 (Mr. Wm. C. Hildreth and wife of Moline visiting relatives)

Grand Rapids Press (Grand Rapids, Michigan) • 17 Jan. 1914 (installation of Casnovia Lodge L.O.T.M.M. officers; Mary Hildreth, Great Chaplain)

Niles Daily Star (Niles, Michigan) • 1 Oct. 1920 • 4 Oct. 1920

The Muskegon Chronicle (Muskegon, Michigan) • 8 Mar. 1928 • 23 Mar. 1928 • 30 Mar. 1928 • 28 Apr. 1928 • 5 May 1928 • 2 Aug. 1928 • 13 Sep. 1928 • 5 Oct. 1928 • 1 Dec. 1928 • 8 Dec. 1928 • 22 Dec. 1928 • 1 Jan. 1929 • 10 Jan. 1929 • 18 Jan. 1929 • 7 Feb. 1929 • 28 Feb. 1929 • 8 Mar. 1929 • 15 Mar. 1929 • 20 Apr. 1929 • 4 May 1929 • 11 May 1929 • 17 May 1929 • 20 May 1929

## Family and Genealogical Sources

Letter, Earl Newell Hildreth to Walter Paul Briggs — 633 North State St., Alma, Michigan; February 22, 1960. Two pages, handwritten. Provides birth and death dates for William C. Hildreth and Mary McCann Hildreth; birthplaces; paternal grandfather Lynden Hildreth (Jackson, Michigan; disappeared in California Gold Rush 1849–51); maternal grandparents Thomas McCann and Mary [Susan Meloy], 'born in Scotland' (not confirmed; Irish birthplace preferred per FamilySearch); William's occupation as butter and cheese maker; full sequence of residences (Groton, Dayton, Moons Station NY, Moline, Kent City, Casnovia Mich.); Niles Paper Company employment; and family notes on the Hildreth lineage. Note: details provided by Earl that conflict with formal records are treated as less reliable.

Gravestone photograph — Family stone: HILDRETH; individual marker: WILL C. 1845–1911. South Casnovia Cemetery, Casnovia, Muskegon County, Michigan (family collection / uploaded source PDF). Note: a companion marker reads MARY 1848–1929, giving birth year one year earlier than the death certificate.

Portrait photograph — William C. Hildreth and Mary McCann Hildreth; annotated in manuscript: "William C. Hildreth" / "Mary McCann" (family collection / uploaded source PDF).

Hildreth Family Association (1935) — Entry No. 319: William C.[7] Hildreth; b. June 7, 1844, Buchanan, Mich.; d. Apr. 16, 1911; m. Mary McCann, 1877; children Earl N., Lo Ella, Carrie B. (FamilySearch Memories).

# EDWARD HARVEY SCHUYLER DARTT

*Horticulturist • Real Estate Developer • Civic Leader*

VERMONT • WISCONSIN • MINNESOTA

*Also known as: E. H. S. Dartt • Edward H. S. Dartt*

## VITAL STATISTICS

| | |
|---|---|
| **BORN** | November 24, 1824, Salisbury, Addison County, Vermont |
| **DIED** | January 31, 1903, Owatonna, Steele County, Minnesota (age 78) |
| **BURIAL** | Forest Hill Cemetery, Owatonna, Minnesota |
| **FATHER** | Josiah Harry Dartt Sr. (1784 – 1871) |
| **MOTHER** | Sarah (Sally) Powers (1783 – 1856) |
| **FIRST MARRIAGE** | January 1, 1857, Marquette, Marquette County, Wisconsin, to Lucretia Brooks (1840 – 1876) |
| **SECOND MARRIAGE** | November 24, 1876, Kingston, Marquette County, Wisconsin, to Caroline (Carrie) Wookey (1843 – 1894) |
| **CHILDREN** | With Lucretia Brooks:<br>Nelson J. Dartt (1857 – 1860)<br>Dr. Walter Scott Dartt (1859 – 1947)<br>Nettie M. Dartt (1861 – 1883)<br>Laura Genevieve Dartt (1864 – 1946)<br>Harvey Schuyler Dartt (1866 – 1936)<br>Justus Josiah Dartt (1872 – 1876)<br><br>With Caroline Wookey:<br>Rolland M. Dartt (1878 – 1906) |
| **SIBLINGS** | Harry Josiah Dartt, Jr. (1806 – 1889)<br>Sally Powers Dartt (1809 – 1853)<br>Justus Nathaniel Dartt, Sr. (1811 – 1880)<br>Mary Jane Dartt (1814 – 1824)<br>Charlotte Dartt (1815 – 1820)<br>Betsy Elizabeth Dartt (1816 – 1883)<br>George Hall Dartt (1818 – 1870) |

## FAMILY BACKGROUND

Edward Harvey Schuyler Dartt was born November 24, 1824, in Salisbury, Addison County, Vermont, the youngest of eight children of Josiah Harry Dartt Sr. and Sarah (Sally) Powers Dartt, who had married in Weathersfield, Vermont, in February 1806. The Dartt family traced its ancestry to early English settlers of New England. Dartt spent his boyhood in Weathersfield and at Goshen, in the same state.

At about sixteen years of age, while living at Goshen, he fell while skating on the ice and suffered a serious knee injury that left him permanently lame — a stiff knee that troubled him for the rest of his life. The lameness would later exempt him from military service and, according to family tradition, pushed him toward mercantile and intellectual pursuits rather than physical trades.

> *Vermont's Addison and Windsor County hill towns were typical of the rural New England from which so much westward migration flowed in the 1830s and 1840s. A significant injury in youth would have closed off many paths open to a farmer's son, and Edward's later turn toward teaching, trade, real estate and horticultural science reflects, in part, a life built around that early limitation.*

## WISCONSIN: TEACHING, TRADE, AND MARRIAGE (1844–1868)

In July 1844, Dartt left Vermont for Dodge County, Wisconsin, a journey of eighteen days by the account Dartt gave much later to the Wisconsin State Horticultural Society. He settled near Fox Lake and, drawn to teaching, pursued a course of study at Ripon College that fitted him for the profession; he went on to teach in several of the public schools around Ripon.

By 1846 he had settled at Kingston, in what was then Marquette County. On July 1, 1848, he secured a federal land patent for eighty acres there purchased outright at the land office in Green Bay. It was the first of many federal land patents Dartt would eventually hold.

On January 1, 1857, at Marquette, Wisconsin, he married Lucretia Brooks, daughter of Joseph and Susan Marie Fritts, in a ceremony performed according to the usages of the Baptist church. The couple settled into life at Kingston, where Dartt kept a general mercantile establishment through the years of the Civil War and served as both postmaster and justice of the peace of the village. His Civil War draft registration, compiled in the summer of 1863 as part of the Enrollment Act's Class II rolls, lists him at Kingston, age thirty-eight, a farmer by occupation, with the notation “right leg stiff.”

Four of the six children of this marriage were born during the Kingston years: Nelson J. (1857), who died in early childhood in 1860; Walter Scott (1859), who would become a physician; Nettie M. (1861); Laura Genevieve (1864) and Harvey Schuyler (1866), and a sixth, Justus Josiah (1872) in Minnesota.

Dartt's interest in horticulture, which he described as dating from boyhood, found its first public expression in Wisconsin. In February 1868 he was named to the Executive Committee of the Wisconsin State Horticultural Society. By his own later account he had, by the time he left Wisconsin, spent some twenty years demonstrating that apples could be successfully grown there, and had shipped over one hundred barrels of his own raising to Minnesota the previous season — a track record he would put to use almost immediately in his new home.

> *The Wisconsin frontier of the 1840s was still raw enough that Dartt's own later poem, "The Pioneer," recalled building a wagon with "never a spoke" and drew on the physical hardship — the ague and fever — that marked the first years of settlement. His Kingston decades, by contrast, show a man moving steadily up the ladder of small-town respectability: merchant, postmaster, justice of the peace, and, increasingly, a recognized horticultural voice.*

## MINNESOTA: NURSERYMAN AND HORTICULTURIST AT OWATONNA (1868–1903)

In July 1868, Dartt made his own way from Kingston to St. Cloud, Minnesota, by private conveyance, surveying the towns and country along the route; the St. Cloud Journal reported him well pleased with what he found. He was, by his own account, searching Kansas and Minnesota for a desirable location for a permanent home, and by the spring of 1870 he had settled at Owatonna and closed out his Kingston nursery for good. A newspaper notice from March 1870 quotes his own circular: "Allured by the magic word, Westward, Ho! I removed to this place, and if blessed with health and prosperity I will fight the battle over again and help to prove that Minnesota, too, can raise her own apples."

On October 1, 1868, shortly before his final move, Dartt had already acquired a second parcel of western land: 160 acres in Stearns County, near St. Cloud, secured not by direct purchase but through agricultural college scrip originally allotted to the State of Pennsylvania under the 1862 Morrill Act and assigned to him. A third patent followed on August 5, 1869 — 147.2 acres in what is now Yellow Medicine County, purchased outright at the land office at St. Peter and recorded, in a contemporary annotation, as former "Sioux Indian Trust Lands" ceded

following the Dakota War of 1862. Taken together, the three patents — Wisconsin cash purchase, Minnesota scrip assignment, Minnesota cash purchase — trace the arc of a man moving from small landholder to active land speculator, a role that would define much of his later career at Owatonna.

> *The land Dartt purchased in 1869 in Yellow Medicine County had been Dakota territory only seven years earlier. The 1862 U.S.–Dakota War and its aftermath opened large tracts of southwestern Minnesota to sale as "trust lands," with proceeds nominally directed to a federal trust fund. Dartt's purchase there was one of many such transactions in the years immediately following, though nothing in the surviving record suggests he ever lived on or worked that particular parcel; it appears to have been a speculative holding.*

At Owatonna, Dartt built a working nursery and, over the following decade, a rapidly expanding orchard. By April 1878 he was setting out a new planting of 1,800 apple trees, protected by wind-break rows of box elder and Scotch pine, adding to a bearing orchard that already covered seven acres. By the mid-1890s the operation had grown to roughly three thousand bearing trees across two orchard tracts totaling some fifteen acres, and the 1898 sketch published in the Wisconsin Horticulturist — written, its editor noted, of a very much "live" man rather than as an obituary — recorded that his orchard had at one time contained more than five thousand trees.

The orchard's early success made it a target as well as a source of pride. In August 1878, having grown tired — in the local paper's phrase — of "raising apples for the benefit of thieves," Dartt began mounting his own defensive operations against midnight raiders. He caught one of two young men filling a sack with apples in his orchard one night, turned him over to the City Justice, and left warrants outstanding for the escaped accomplice and others; the paper noted dryly that the culprits would find greater difficulty accounting for the apples than King George had accounting for the tea.

Dartt's standing in Minnesota horticultural circles grew alongside his orchard. He was a charter member of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society and served repeatedly as an officer: elected a vice president in 1872 and again in 1876, and re-elected vice president as late as December 1895. He sat on the Society's nomenclature committee in 1872 alongside J. S. Harris and P. M. Gideon, two of the era's most prominent Minnesota horticulturists, and he read papers at the Society's annual meetings for more than two decades on subjects ranging from wind protection and Russian apple varieties to "Horticultural Frauds" and the girdling of fruit

trees to induce early bearing. He was also recognized across state lines as an honorary life member of the Wisconsin State Horticultural Society, which he continued to visit annually.

Sometime around 1890 Dartt was appointed superintendent of the newly established Owatonna Experimental Tree Station, sited on the grounds of the State School for Indigent Children, later renamed the State Public School. His surviving annual reports to the Society, the earliest dated January 1890, describe the work in exhaustive technical detail: hundreds of root grafts each winter, seedling trials by the thousand, imported Russian apple varieties tested for hardiness, and correspondence with fellow experimenters across the upper Midwest. He introduced varieties of his own breeding, including a large-fruited, good-flavored crab apple bred from Tetofsky seed with a probable Hyslop cross, which he introduced publicly in October 1885 under the name Dartt's Hybrid — "this genuine Owatonna production," the local paper called it, "worthy of its birth-place" — and pressed continually for the Station to be treated as public research infrastructure rather than a commercial nursery. "No man who runs an Experimental Tree Station at public expense should be engaged in selling trees," he wrote in his 1890 report — a statement of principle he returned to more than once.

> *Minnesota's brutal winters made fruit-growing a genuinely uncertain proposition through the 1870s and 1880s, and the state's decision to fund an experimental tree station reflected real anxiety about whether orcharding could succeed at all north of the Iowa line. Dartt's decades of patient, methodical variety testing — girdling, root-grafting, tracking which Russian imports survived a Minnesota winter and which did not — were part of a broader, still-unfinished project to make Minnesota fruit-growing commercially viable, a project in which he was one of the state's most persistent and most publicly visible practitioners.*

Dartt was also, by even wider reputation, a real estate developer and civic booster. Beginning in the early 1890s he platted and sold lots in what the local papers called Dartt's Addition — eighty lots on graded, tree-lined streets within half a mile of the depot, schools, and Pillsbury Academy — and defended his street layout in a testy 1893 letter to the editor when the City Council complained that his streets were narrower and less regular than those elsewhere in town. He went on to acquire Bigelow's Addition and additional acreage from Dr. Bigelow and John Thompson in 1896, further expanding his holdings in the city's northeast quarter.

His most lasting public gift was the twenty-two acres of creek-bottom land along Maple Creek that he began developing, in the late 1890s, into what Owatonna came to call Dartt's Park, or, with evident local affection, "Dartt's Paradise." The work took roughly three years. He built a

first dam that formed an immediate swimming pool, drawing what one paper called the "amphibious small boys of the town" on summer afternoons, then added substantial bathing houses that extended the pool's use to men and women as well as children. A second and third dam widened the creek into quiet lagoons crossed by small footbridges he called "walk-overs," each built wide enough to drive a carriage across. He cleared underbrush from a wooded knoll, cut paths and drives through it, put up a pavilion beside one of the lagoons, and converted a stretch of interval land to the west into a ball field — the only one in town open to local boys — complete with a grandstand seating about 150.

The park's character owed as much to Dartt's personality as to his horticultural skill. Visitors entered through what was nicknamed "the pearly gates," and Dartt posted his own verse on one footbridge: "To our friends living say, 'Tis better far to laugh than cry.'" A 1900 feature in the Minneapolis Journal made the underlying point explicit: where an organized town-improvement association depended on persuading people to act, Dartt simply owned the land, had the expertise, and did the work himself, opening the grounds to the public "without charge or restriction of any kind." Children from the State Public School picnicked there regularly, and the park functioned, in effect, as a private philanthropic substitute for a municipal parks system Owatonna did not yet have.

That dependence on Dartt personally showed clearly after his death. Left without a supervisor, the park began reverting to wilderness within a few years, and by the 1910s one retrospective piece described it as fit only to serve as a cow pasture. Hon. James M. Diment purchased the property from the estate in 1908 specifically to keep it from being subdivided and sold off, and the Owatonna High School Alumni Association later secured an option on the land and gifted it to the city, which gradually restored the dams, lagoons, and bathing beach through the 1910s and 1920s in an explicit effort to return the grounds to what a 1921 article called "the splendor of paradise days."

> *Owatonna in the 1890s had no dedicated parks department, and Dartt's park was, functionally, a private philanthropic substitute for one — built, maintained, and opened to the public entirely at his own initiative and expense. Its subsequent history bore this out: after his death the park fell into disrepair for want of a supervisor, was rescued from possible subdivision by a private purchase in 1908, and was eventually restored through a public campaign led by the Owatonna high school alumni association in the 1910s and 1920s — a reminder of how much of the original upkeep had depended on Dartt personally.*

Dartt's civic life extended well beyond real estate and parks, and it reached back earlier than his well-documented Prohibition campaigns of the 1880s. He served on the Owatonna school board in the mid-1870s. His temperance activity ran on a similarly long track: in 1876 he was elected Grand Worthy Templar of the newly organized Grand Division of Minnesota, Sons of Temperance, at its founding convention in Owatonna, and he sat that same year on the executive committee of the Owatonna Christian Temperance Union — even as he also served as treasurer of the local Hayes and Wheeler Club, campaigning that year for the Republican presidential ticket. By the 1880s that temperance sympathy had migrated from the Republican Party to a Prohibition Party of his own: he was a committed Prohibitionist and stood repeatedly, without evident success, as the Party's candidate for a range of Owatonna and Steele County offices through the decade — mayor, city trustee, municipal judge, and probate judge among them — and served as a delegate to Prohibition Party conventions at the state and national level, including as an alternate delegate to the 1892 national convention at Cincinnati. Earlier, in 1874, he had been a Republican delegate from Steele County to the state convention in Minneapolis. He supported the 1888 campaign to secure George A. Pillsbury's gift toward Pillsbury Academy, backed the 1894 bond issue for a new Second Ward school, and was a longtime member of Star of the West Lodge No. 14 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows — serving as an officer of the lodge by 1884 — which passed formal resolutions of respect on his death.

He was, by the testimony of the local press, a natural writer, and not always a solemn one. His published verse included "The Pioneer" — begun in Wisconsin in 1844 and finished in Minnesota in 1898 — a lengthy 1881 satire titled "The Railroad Spider and Granger Fly," which skewered railroad monopoly practices in the voice of the Grange movement's agrarian politics, and lighter pieces such as "Good Times" and "Hard Times," printed side by side in the Owatonna paper in 1895 as a wry commentary on temperance and thrift. He wrote frequently to the editor on subjects ranging from butter and oleomargarine regulation to the army canteen question, and the Minneapolis Daily Times, profiling him in 1898, noted that he "breaks into melody and decorates his business announcements with a poem" even while soberly advertising building lots.

Family life during these Owatonna decades combined ordinary domestic incident with real loss. Lucretia (Brooks) Dartt — born in McKean Township, Erie County, Pennsylvania, in September 1840, and raised from age five in Wisconsin, where she had joined the Methodist Church at fourteen — died in Owatonna on January 26, 1876, at thirty-five. A lengthy

contemporary obituary describes an extended deathbed scene in which she gathered her family around her for a farewell, spoke of an infant child she had already buried, and, in her final hours, asked her attendants to sing; five of her six children survived her. The following week Dartt published a public card of thanks in the Owatonna paper for the community's "sympathy and many kind attentions" during what he called "our late bereavement."

That same spring, Dartt also wound down Lucretia's business: a millinery stock and store on Cedar Street, advertised for sale or exchange for city real estate in March 1876 as "a good opening for a milliner… a splendid location, a good trade established." The stock was purchased later that month by Misses A. M. (Addie Maria) Brooks — Lucretia's sister and business partner — and Ellen Morgan.

Dartt married again within the year, on November 24, 1876, at Kingston, Wisconsin, to Caroline (Carrie) Wookey, an English-born woman who had emigrated to Wisconsin as a small child and settled at Kingston before her marriage. He had taken his youngest child, Justus Josiah, not yet four, along on the trip. While the family was in Wisconsin the boy was taken suddenly ill and died; Dartt did not return to Owatonna alone with the news, but brought his bride and his son's body home together, arriving on Tuesday night, December 12, 1876 — some three weeks after the wedding, the interval presumably taken up by the child's death and burial arrangements. The Owatonna paper called it "a sorrowful bereavement that dispelled the pleasures of the honeymoon." Their own son, Rolland M. Dartt, was born in 1878. His daughter Nettie M. Dartt died in 1883 at twenty-two. Carrie Dartt fell seriously ill in the early 1890s, was treated without lasting success in Minneapolis, and by the late summer of 1894 was under care at an institution in Rochester, where her mind grew "obscure" in her final months, though she continued to recognize her family. She died there December 6, 1894, and was buried at Forest Hill Cemetery beside Edward's first wife.

Family visits punctuated the Owatonna years: his son Dr. Walter S. Dartt, a physician at Palouse, Washington, returned to Owatonna in 1895 and again in 1901, on the second occasion after an absence the paper noted as unusually long. His daughter Laura, by then Mrs. Charles M. Kirk of Santa Barbara, California, visited repeatedly through the 1890s and again in December 1902, staying several weeks during her father's final illness. Not every domestic note was cheerful: in February 1901, Dartt's youngest son, Rolland — known as "Rollie" and, in a later notice, "Raleigh" in the press — attempted to take his own life; he survived the attempt. He died five years later, in October 1906, at a hospital in Rochester, Minnesota,

following a period in which, according to his obituary, his mind had become unbalanced as a result of sickness.

## DECLINE AND DEATH: 1902–1903

Dartt's health had been failing for some years before his death, though he remained active nearly to the end. In the autumn of 1902 he suffered a paralytic stroke serious enough that the Owatonna paper on October 3rd gave little hope for his recovery, "considering his advanced age." It proved to be the last of three strokes he had sustained. He rallied enough afterward to drive out and attend to some business, but he grew steadily weaker through the winter.

Edward Harvey Schuyler Dartt died at his home on East Broadway in Owatonna at seven o'clock on the morning of Saturday, January 31, 1903, at the age of seventy-eight. The state death certificate recorded the chief cause as cerebral hemorrhage, with asthenia — physical weakness and wasting — as a contributing factor, and listed his occupation simply as "Real Estate."

Funeral services were held at the house on Monday afternoon, February 2, 1903. Burial followed at Forest Hill Cemetery. The Owatonna schools marched in a body to the service — Dartt had been the first citizen to contribute toward a school building fund — and members of the Odd Fellows lodge accompanied the procession to the cemetery. The lodge subsequently adopted formal resolutions praising him as "ever ready to proffer the hand of aid and the voice of sympathy to the needy and distressed." Newspapers well beyond Owatonna carried the news: the Faribault Journal called him the city's "most progressive citizen," and the Mower County Transcript credited him among the state's "most conservative and successful horticulturists."

> *Cerebral hemorrhage following a series of strokes was, in the medical understanding of 1903, an almost inevitable progression once a first paralytic stroke had occurred in a man of Dartt's age, and there were essentially no treatments available beyond rest and nursing care. The pattern recorded here — partial recovery after an initial stroke, a period of diminished but real activity, then a final and fatal episode some months later — was a common trajectory for cerebrovascular disease in this period.*

## SUMMARY

Edward Harvey Schuyler Dartt's life traced a single, consistent thread across three states and nearly six decades: a boyhood lameness that ruled out heavier labor, a turn instead toward teaching, trade, real estate and the patient science of fruit-growing, and a talent for combining private enterprise with public generosity. He taught school, was a postmaster and kept a country store in Wisconsin, then spent more than thirty years in Minnesota building an orchard, a nursery, and eventually a state-funded experimental tree station that placed him among the recognized horticultural authorities of the upper Midwest.

He was, at the same time, a committed if largely unsuccessful third-party politician, a fraternal lodge brother, a real estate developer whose additions still bear his name, and the builder, at his own expense, of the public park that Owatonna came to call "Dartt's Paradise." He buried two wives and three of his seven children before his own death in 1903, and outlived a fourth child, Rolland, by less than four years. Contemporary obituaries agreed on the essentials: a man of decided opinions, a ready and vigorous writer, and, in the words of one 1903 tribute, someone who "has left [the world] richer for something it had not before he came."

## SOURCES

### Vital and Legal Records

Vermont Birth Record, Town of Salisbury, Addison County — Edward Harvey Schuyler Dartt, born November 24, 1824, to Josiah Dartt and Sally (Powers) Dartt; recorded by Nathan Capen, Town Clerk.

Certificate of Death — E. H. S. Dartt, State of Minnesota, Steele County; died January 31, 1903, Owatonna; chief cause: cerebral hemorrhage; contributing: asthenia; age 78 years, 3 months; occupation: Real Estate; father: Josiah; burial: Forest Hill Cemetery; certified photocopy issued by the Minnesota State Board of Health, May 21, 1964.

Marriage Register (Marquette County, Wisconsin) — Edward H. S. Dartt and Lucretia Brooks; married January 1, 1857, Marquette, Marquette County, Wisconsin, according to the usages of the Baptist church; officiant H. L. Miller; certificate dated January 2, 1857; registered February 1857.

Civil War Draft Registration — Consolidated List of Persons of Class II, 5th Congressional District of Wisconsin, compiled July–August 1863 under Provost Marshal C. R. Merrill; Dartt, E. H. S., Kingston, age 38, farmer, born Vermont, remarks: "Right leg stiff."

United States Land Patent — Edward H. S. Dartt, 80 acres (E½ NW¼, Sec. 13, Twp. 14N, Rge. 11E), Green Bay, Wisconsin land office; Act of April 24, 1820; issued July 1, 1848, under President James K. Polk.

United States Land Patent — Edward H. S. Dartt, 160 acres (SE¼, Sec. 15, Twp. 124N, Rge. 36), St. Cloud, Minnesota land office; Morrill Act scrip No. 446, originally allotted to Pennsylvania; issued October 1, 1868, under President Andrew Johnson.

United States Land Patent — Edward H. S. Dartt, 147.2 acres (Lot 4, SW¼ NE¼, N½ NE¼, Sec. 16, Twp. 114N, Rge. 39W), St. Peter, Minnesota land office; Act of April 24, 1820; former Sioux Indian Trust Lands; issued August 5, 1869, under President Ulysses S. Grant.

Last Will and Testament of E. H. S. Dartt, drawn Owatonna, Minnesota, December 17, 1900, with executor codicil of May 12, 1902; admitted to probate March 2, 1903, Probate Court, Steele County, Minnesota, Hon. W. A. Eggleston presiding.

## Newspaper Sources

The Owatonna Journal (Owatonna, Minnesota) • 27 Jan 1876 (death notice, Lucretia Dartt) • 3 Feb 1876 (card of thanks) • 2 Mar 1876 (millinery stock advertised) • 16 Mar 1876 (millinery stock sold) • 1 Jun 1876 (Sons of Temperance, Grand Division organized) • 8 Jun 1876 (Christian Temperance Union officers) • 3 Aug 1876 (personal item) • 28 Sep 1876 (Hayes and Wheeler Club) • 14 Dec 1876 (marriage and death of Justus Josiah Dartt) • 22 Aug 1878 (orchard theft) • 21 Mar 1879 (school board) • 25 Feb 1881 (poem, "The Railroad Spider and Granger Fly") • 4 Jan 1884 (I.O.O.F. installation banquet) • 23 Oct 1885 (Dartt's Hybrid)

The Owatonna Evening Journal (Owatonna, Minnesota) • 3 Feb 1903 (obituary, "The Passing of a Pioneer")

The People's Press (Owatonna, Minnesota) • 1 Feb 1872 • 25 Oct 1875 • 27 Feb 1885 (through 1886 political and civic notices) • 31 Mar 1893 (Dartt's Addition) • 29 Dec 1893 • 16 Feb 1894 • 14 Dec 1894 (death of Carrie Dartt) • 21 Dec 1894 (death of E. H. S. Dartt's superintendency notice) • 24 Jan 1890 (Experimental Tree Station annual report) • 7 Jan 1898 (annual report) • 10 Feb 1901 (Rollie Dartt suicide attempt, reprinted from Star Tribune) • 6 Feb 1903 (two items: obituary and school funeral notice) • 13 Feb 1903 (Odd Fellows resolutions) • 22 May 1908 (sale of Dartt's Park) • 10 Aug 1906 (death of Raleigh [Rolland] Dartt) • 16 Sep 1921 (Dartt's Park restoration)

Star Tribune (Minneapolis, Minnesota) • 11 Jan 1872 (State Horticultural Society proceedings) • 10 Sep 1874 (Republican State Convention) • 14 Dec 1875 • 22 Jan 1876 • 7 Jan 1886 (broken leg) • 21 Jan 1886 • 8 Mar 1886 • 11 Jul 1888 • 10 Feb 1901 (Rollie Dartt suicide attempt)

The Saint Paul Globe (Saint Paul, Minnesota) • 6 Apr 1878 • 12 Jan 1886 (dislocated hip) • 22 Jun 1886 • 27 Sep 1886 • 8 Mar 1887 • 26 Dec 1887 • 18 Jan 1888 • 2 Apr 1888 (Pillsbury Academy) • 19 Jan 1889 • 10 Jan 1895

The St. Cloud Journal (St. Cloud, Minnesota) • 16 Jul 1868 • 20 May 1869

Minneapolis Daily Times (Minneapolis, Minnesota) • 25 Sep 1898 (feature profile) • 7 Dec 1900 • 18 Dec 1900 (letter to editor, dairy industry) • 12 Jan 1901 (letter to editor, army canteen)

Freeborn County Standard (Albert Lea, Minnesota) • 1 Feb 1872

Baraboo Republic (Baraboo, Wisconsin) • 12 Feb 1868

Dodge County Republican (Dodge County, Minnesota) • 16 Mar 1893

Mower County Transcript (Austin, Minnesota) • 15 Aug 1894 • 12 Dec 1894 • 18 Feb 1903 (death notice)

The Faribault Journal (Faribault, Minnesota) • 11 Feb 1903 (obituary)

The Iowa State Register (Des Moines, Iowa) • 10 Jul 1896

The Minneapolis Journal (Minneapolis, Minnesota) — undated feature, "'Dartt's Paradise' for Owatonnans" (c. 1900)

The Minneapolis Star (Minneapolis, Minnesota) • 23 Jun 1928 (wedding of granddaughter Dorna Dartt)

The Albert Lea Tribune (Albert Lea, Minnesota) • 15 Feb 1901 (reprinted Owatonna Journal item)

## Family and Genealogical Sources

"E. H. S. Dartt," Wisconsin Horticulturist (reprinted in the Annual Report of the Wisconsin State Horticultural Society, Vol. 28, Madison, WI: Democrat Printing Co., 1898), pp. 229–230. Biographical sketch of Dartt written during his lifetime, including the poem "The Pioneer." Introduced by Society secretary A. J. Philips.

FamilySearch profile — Edward Harvey Schuyler Dartt (ID: L5F3-P5G); accessed 2026. Aggregates vital records, spousal and parental relationships, and residence events cited throughout this biography. Twenty-four sources attached to the name field; parental relationship (Josiah Harry Dartt Sr. and Sarah Powers) drawn from this profile and cross-checked against the 1857 marriage register's naming of the mother as "Sally Dartt."

FamilySearch profile — Lucretia Brooks (ID: LHXL-FS6); accessed 2026. Sixteen sources attached. Lists parents as Joseph Brooks (1817–1894) and Susan Marie Fritts (1817–1883), married about 1839, with siblings Henry Mortimer Brooks, Jennie Brooks, Orville E. Brooks, and Addie Maria Brooks. Consulted to identify Lucretia's parents; conflicts with the Marquette County marriage register's naming of the mother as "Marion Brooks" (see context note in the Wisconsin section).

Family portrait and annotation record referenced within the FamilySearch profile's alternate-name entries ("E. H. S. Dartt" and "Edward H. S. Dartt"), noting that most contemporary records use the initials form of his name.

# LUCRETIA BROOKS

*Pioneer • Wife • Mother • Milliner*

PENNSYLVANIA • WISCONSIN • MINNESOTA

*Also known as: Lucretia Dartt • Mrs. E. H. S. Dartt • Mrs. Lucretia B. Dartt*

## VITAL STATISTICS

| | |
|---|---|
| **BORN** | September 2, 1840, McKean Township, Erie County, Pennsylvania |
| **DIED** | January 25, 1876, Owatonna, Steele County, Minnesota (age 35) |
| **BURIED** | Forest Hill Cemetery, Owatonna, Minnesota |
| **FATHER** | Joseph Brooks (1817 – 1894) |
| **MOTHER** | Susan Marie Fritts (1817 – 1883) |
| **MARRIED** | January 1, 1857, Marquette, Marquette County, Wisconsin, to Edward Harvey Schuyler (E. H. S.) Dartt (1824 – 1903) |
| **CHILDREN** | Nelson J. Dartt (1857 – 1860)<br>Dr. Walter Scott Dartt (1859 – 1947)<br>Nettie M. Dartt (1861 – 1883)<br>Laura Genevieve Dartt (1864 – 1946)<br>Harvey Schuyler Dartt (1866 – 1936)<br>Justus Josiah Dartt (1872 – 1876) |
| **SIBLINGS** | Henry Mortimer Brooks (1842 – 1892)<br>Jennie Brooks (1845 – 1923)<br>Orville E. Brooks (1849 – 1913)<br>Addie Maria Brooks (1853 – 1929) |

## FAMILY BACKGROUND

Lucretia Brooks was born September 2, 1840, in McKean Township, Erie County, Pennsylvania, the daughter of Joseph Brooks and Susan Marie Fritts. She was one of five children who survived to adulthood, with siblings Henry Mortimer, Jennie, Orville E., and Addie Maria Brooks. In August 1845, when Lucretia was not yet five years old, the family left Pennsylvania for Wisconsin, settling eventually in the Marquette and Green Lake County area

of the state's central lake country — the Brooks family appears at Marquette in the 1850 census and at Kingston, Green Lake County, by 1860.

> *The migration of Pennsylvania farm families into central Wisconsin in the 1840s was part of a broader westward movement following the opening of the Wisconsin Territory to settlement. Lucretia's girlhood in Marquette and Green Lake counties placed her in a rural lake-country community not far removed from the frontier.*

She joined the Methodist Church at age fourteen, and her later obituary would recall that she had given evidence of "early piety" for five or six years before that formal step — a detail suggesting a religious seriousness that marked her from a young age.

## MARRIAGE AND THE WISCONSIN YEARS (1857–1870)

On January 1, 1857, at Marquette, Wisconsin, Lucretia Brooks married Edward Harvey Schuyler (E. H. S.) Dartt, a young farmer originally from Salisbury, Vermont, whose family had itself settled at Kingston, Marquette County, some years before. The marriage was performed "according to the usages of the Baptist Church," and recorded in the county marriage register — though the certificate was not formally registered with the county until 1877, a year after Lucretia's death, an administrative gap not uncommon for marriages of the period.

> *Edward Harvey Schuyler Dartt, the youngest of eight children of Josiah Harry Dartt Sr. and Sarah (Sally) Powers Dartt of Vermont, went on to become a locally noted nurseryman in Minnesota, developing an apple variety known as "Dartt's Hybrid." His own biography is a separate document in this collection; this note is included only to establish the household Lucretia entered in 1857.*

The young couple settled in the Kingston area of Marquette/Green Lake County, and their family began arriving quickly. A son, Nelson J. Dartt, was born in 1857 but died in 1860, not yet three years old — the infant loss that Lucretia's later obituary would recall her speaking of on her own deathbed. Four more children followed in Wisconsin over the next decade: Walter Scott (1859), who would grow up to become a physician; Nettie M. (1861); Laura Genevieve (1864); and Harvey Schuyler (1866), who carried his father's names forward. The 1860 census finds the family at Kingston, Green Lake County, and they remained in the area until about 1868.

## MINNESOTA: OWATONNA AND THE MILLINERY SHOP (C. 1868–1876)

Around 1868, the Dartt family relocated to Owatonna, Steele County, Minnesota, where Edward would establish himself as a nurseryman. A final child, Justus Josiah Dartt, was born to the couple on November 27, 1872; the Owatonna birth register lists his father's occupation as "Nurseryman" and gives the parents' respective birthplaces as Vermont and Pennsylvania — a small but precise confirmation of both parents' origins.

In Owatonna, Lucretia built a business of her own. In April 1875, the Owatonna Journal announced that "Mrs. E. H. S. Dartt and Addie M. Brooks" — her younger sister — had opened a new millinery store on Broadway, "a little east of the Farmers National Bank," describing the establishment's "fine fresh stock and nicely furnished rooms." By May, the paper was running notices for "Mrs. Dartt & Miss Brooks," advertising millinery and dress-making with "especial attention given to Cutting and Fitting." By September 1875, a further item noted that "Mrs. Dartt, Cedar Street," had expanded her stock to include dress goods and hosiery — evidence of a business that was, by the second half of 1875, both established and growing.

> *Millinery was one of the few trades in which married women of this period commonly operated as visible, named proprietors rather than as adjuncts to a husband's business — the Owatonna Journal's advertisements name Lucretia and her sister directly, by their own names and initials, as the operators of the shop. The partnership with a sister was also a common arrangement, keeping capital and labor within the family.*

## DEATH: JANUARY 1876

Lucretia Dartt died in Owatonna on January 25, 1876, at thirty-five years of age. Her gravestone at Forest Hill Cemetery is inscribed with that date, and the Owatonna Journal's obituary, published January 27th, corroborates it in its own narrative of her final hours: the family was gathered at her bedside "on the morning of the 25th," and she died later that same day.

The Journal's obituary is the fullest surviving record of Lucretia's life and character. It described her as "a devoted wife, a careful and affectionate mother, a beloved neighbor, and an ardent friend of the Church of her choice." Early in her illness, the paper reported, she had become convinced that God was about to take her, and she spoke of the infant she had already

buried — Nelson, dead sixteen years earlier — wondering whether she would recognize her child in the next life. On the morning of the 25th she gathered her family around her bed to give each "the word of counsel and affectionate farewell," meeting her approaching death, the paper wrote, with "full and restful trust in Jesus." A period of delirium followed, relieved near the end by moments of consciousness in which she asked her attendants to sing; she is recorded as having shown her appreciation of the hymns with "cheerful smiles" before she died. Five of her six children survived her; only Nelson had predeceased her.

The following week, on February 3, 1876, Edward Dartt placed a public card of thanks in the Journal, expressing "sincere thanks to the citizens of Owatonna for their sympathy and many kind attentions to myself and family during our late bereavement," and assuring the community that their "kind and generous treatment will always be remembered with tender emotions and heartfelt gratitude."

> *Prolonged deathbed scenes recorded in loving detail, with an emphasis on the dying person's faith, composure, and final words, were a conventional feature of nineteenth-century obituary writing — the "good death" narrative. That convention does not make the account fictional, but it shapes how it reads: the obituary is as much a portrait of Christian dying as it is a record of the illness itself, and it says relatively little about what the illness actually was.*

## AFTERMATH

Lucretia's youngest child, Justus Josiah Dartt, did not long survive her; he died December 10, 1876, not yet four years old. Her millinery business also came to a close that spring: in March 1876, Edward Dartt advertised the shop's stock for sale, describing "a good opening for a milliner… a splendid location, a good trade established," and offering to exchange it for city real estate. Later that month, the stock was purchased by Misses A. M. Brooks — Lucretia's sister and business partner — and Ellen Morgan, who continued the business at the same Cedar Street location.

Edward Dartt remarried within the year, in November 1876, to Caroline (Carrie) Wookey. He lived until 1903 and was buried at Forest Hill Cemetery, the same cemetery where Lucretia and, eventually, his second wife were laid to rest.

## SUMMARY

Lucretia Brooks lived only thirty-five years, but the record she left behind — thin as it is — shows a woman of character. Raised in the Wisconsin lake country after a Pennsylvania childhood, she married young, bore six children over fifteen years, and buried a son before she was twenty. In Minnesota she built, with her sister, a millinery and dress-making business that the Owatonna papers tracked with evident approval through 1875 — a woman named in her own right in the town's advertising columns, not merely as "Mrs. Dartt" but as a working proprietor with a trade of her own. She died in January 1876, mourned by a community whose sympathy her husband felt compelled to acknowledge publicly, and remembered by the local paper as a woman of piety, affection, and quiet resolve in the face of her own death.

Her connection to the broader genealogical record runs through her husband, Edward Harvey Schuyler Dartt, whose own biography traces the Dartt family's Vermont origins and Minnesota nursery business, and through her children, several of whom — including Dr. Walter Scott Dartt — carried the family forward into the twentieth century.

## SOURCES

### Vital and Legal Records

Marriage Record — Edward H. S. Dartt and Lucretia Brooks; married January 1, 1857, Marquette, Marquette County, Wisconsin, according to the usages of the Baptist Church; officiant H. L. Miller, Minister of the Gospel; residence of both parties given as Kingston, Marquette County; certificate dated January 2, 1857; registered July 1877.

Return of Births in the City of Owatonna, County of Steele and State of Minnesota, for the year ending December 31, 1872 — entry no. 56, Justus Dartt, born November 27, 1872, to E. H. S. and Lucretia Dartt; parents' birthplaces given as Vermont and Pennsylvania; father's occupation, Nurseryman; registered December 30, 1872.

Gravestone — Lucretia Brooks, Wife of E. H. S. Dartt, September 2, 1840 – January 25, 1876; Forest Hill Cemetery, Owatonna, Minnesota.

### Newspaper Sources

Owatonna Journal (Owatonna, Minnesota) • Apr. 8, 1875 (new millinery store, Mrs. E. H. S. Dartt and Addie M. Brooks) • May 6, 1875 ("Mrs. Dartt & Miss Brooks", millinery and dress making) • Sep. 30, 1875 (Mrs. Dartt, Cedar Street, expanded millinery stock) • Jan. 27, 1876 (death notice, Mrs. Lucretia B. Dartt) • Feb. 3, 1876 (card of thanks, E. H. S. Dartt) • Mar. 2, 1876 (millinery stock and store advertised for sale) • Mar. 16, 1876 (millinery stock sold to Misses A. M. Brooks and Ellen Morgan).

### Family and Genealogical Sources

FamilySearch Family Tree profile for Lucretia Brooks (person ID LHXL-FS6), accessed 2026 — provides vitals, family members, and residence events; lists death date as January 21, 1876, which conflicts with both the gravestone

and the contemporary newspaper account (see Death section); several events (residences, occupation) carry no independent sources beyond contributor annotations.

Related biography: Edward Harvey Schuyler Dartt — husband; separate biographical document in this collection, consulted for corroborating family background.

# HOWARD HORTON HAWORTH

*Civil War Veteran • Harness Maker • Merchant*

INDIANA • IOWA • MINNESOTA

*Also known as: Howard Haworth • H. Haworth • Howard Hayworth • Howard Heyworth*

## VITAL STATISTICS

| | |
|---|---|
| **BORN** | July 11, 1840, Noblesville, Hamilton County, Indiana |
| **DIED** | July 10, 1911, Fort Dodge, Webster County, Iowa (age 70) |
| **BURIAL** | Oakland Cemetery, Fort Dodge, Webster County, Iowa |
| **FATHER** | Levi Haworth (1811 - 1881) |
| **MOTHER** | Phebe Haworth (1809 - 1878) |
| **MARRIED** | November 9, 1865, Salt Creek, Tama County, Iowa, to Margaret Frances Shelton (1846 – 1936) |
| **CHILDREN** | Ella May (Chandler) Haworth, adopted (1873 – 1963) |
| **SIBLINGS** | Alpheus Haworth (1835–1895)<br>Solomon Haworth (1837–1925)<br>James Haworth (1838–1902)<br>Mary Haworth (1842–1845)<br>William Haworth (1844–1845)<br>Dillon F Haworth (1847–1873)<br>Louisa Haworth (1848–1850)<br>Sarah Ellen Haworth (1852–1939)<br>Eli Haworth (1856–1922) |

## FAMILY BACKGROUND

Howard Horton Haworth was born July 11, 1840, in Noblesville, Hamilton County, Indiana, the son of Levi Haworth, born in Ohio, and Phebe Haworth, born in North Carolina. Little survives in the assembled sources about his Indiana childhood; by the time the documentary record picks him up in the early 1860s, the family had relocated to Tama County, Iowa, where Howard appears alongside Alpheus Haworth, age 28, and James Haworth, age 21, — his brothers — in the 1863 Civil War draft enrollment for Toledo, Tama County.

## CIVIL WAR SERVICE: COMPANY C, 6TH IOWA INFANTRY (1861–1862)

Howard Haworth enlisted as a private on July 4, 1861, and was mustered in on July 17, 1861, at Iowa Falls, Iowa, into Company C of the 6th Iowa Infantry, giving his residence as Iowa Falls and his age as twenty-one. His military service was brief and, by every indication in the surviving record, physically costly: the regimental roster records that he was mustered out on January 17, 1862, at La Mine Bridge, Missouri, discharged for disability — a discharge secured barely six months into his enlistment, and one that qualified him for an invalid pension within two decades of his service.

During the six months Haworth served, the 6th Iowa Infantry participated in its first campaign in Missouri rather than spending its entire time in established garrison duty. Mustered at Burlington on July 17, 1861, the regiment moved to Keokuk and then St. Louis before being transported to Jefferson City on September 19 to join Major General John C. Frémont's advance toward Springfield, Missouri. During October and early November, the regiment took part in this arduous campaign, after which it remained at Sedalia for several weeks before moving to winter quarters at La Mine Bridge in early December. It was there that Haworth was discharged for disability in January 1862. His entire period of service therefore coincided with the regiment's formative first campaign season, later described in the official Iowa roster history as the time when the men "learned its first severe lesson in marching, and the endurance of hardships," before the disability that ended Haworth's enlistment overtook him.

The physical toll of that service left a lasting, visible mark. Haworth carried the evidence of it for the rest of his life — and, remarkably, so did the coat he wore. In June 1909, a store's patriotic window display included, alongside a portrait of Fort Dodge's founder, 'a coat worn by H. Haworth in 1861, which is riddled with bullet holes showing that it was in the thickest of the fight' — a striking piece of physical testimony, preserved and displayed publicly nearly half a century after the fact, to injuries that the official record reduces to the single bureaucratic phrase 'disch disability.'

> *The surviving records do not specify the medical nature of Haworth's disabling injury or illness, and 'discharged for disability' in Civil War-era muster records could describe a combat wound, a wound-related complication, or a disease contracted in the field — all common causes of early discharge in a regiment's first campaign season. The bullet-riddled coat displayed in 1909, however, together with the description of him having been 'in the thickest of the fight,' points toward a wound*

> *sustained in action during the Missouri campaign rather than an illness, even though no battle report or medical record in the assembled sources names the specific engagement.*

He filed for an invalid pension on September 12, 1881 (Application No. 429,056; Certificate No. 528,071), and the certificate was reissued at increasing rates over the following decades — in 1895, again in 1907 under the Act of February 6, 1907, and once more in March 1910 under the General Law. That the reissues came at increasing rates, rather than remaining flat, suggests his disability was assessed as worsening with age — a fifty-year arc from a six-month enlistment to a pension still being adjusted upward in his seventieth year. The pension record, spanning three decades, is itself a record of the lasting toll that brief but bruising service had taken.

## TAMA COUNTY, IOWA: THE HARNESS TRADE AND EARLY SETBACKS (1863–1880)

By the summer of 1863, when Tama County's Civil War draft enrollment was compiled, Howard Haworth, twenty-two, was working in Toledo, Iowa, as a harness maker — unmarried, and noted as having served '6 mos in 6 Ia Inf.' Two years later, on November 9, 1865, he married Margaret Frances Shelton. The marriage would last the rest of his life.

Haworth spent the later 1860s building a harness business in Toledo. In May 1868, The Toledo Chronicle reported that he had bought out his partner H. P. Becker's interest in the firm of Becker & Haworth, harness dealers, and would continue the business alone at the old stand — the paper wishing him a 'liberal patronage.' The arrangement did not last long: in July 1869, J. T. Miller announced that he had purchased Haworth's entire interest and goodwill in the harness business.

The reason for that sale becomes clearer in the record from the following spring. In May 1870, the Tama County sheriff advertised a public sale of real estate — a lot in the town of Toledo — under a special execution against Howard Haworth, Margaret F. Haworth, and several co-defendants, arising from a judgment of $720.53. It was the first of two occasions in Haworth's working life in which a harness business ended not in a quiet sale but in financial distress.

> *Harness making was a staple rural trade in nineteenth-century Iowa, essential to any farming community dependent on horse-drawn transport and implements, but it was also a business vulnerable to the credit cycles of the period. Haworth's pattern — building a shop, then losing or*

> *selling it under financial pressure — recurs at least twice in the surviving record, in Toledo in 1870 and again in Ida County in the mid-1880s.*

## IDA AND WOODBURY COUNTIES, IOWA: ADOPTION, HARNESS TRADE, AND COMMUNITY LIFE (1880–1898)

By January 1880, Howard and Margaret Haworth were living in Battle Creek, Ida County, Iowa, where they made a decision that would permanently shape their family. On January 13, 1880—just weeks after his own wife's passing—a local man named E. G. Chandler formally surrendered his six-and-a-half-year-old daughter, Ella, to Howard for adoption. The deed specified that the child's name would legally change to Ella May Haworth.

When the deed of adoption was filed at the Ida County recorder's office the following day, only Howard was officially named as the adoptive parent. Although Margaret was omitted from the legal document itself, she fully embraced the role of mother; Ella was raised as the couple's true daughter and was always recognized as such.

Haworth resumed the harness trade at Battle Creek in March 1884, when the Sioux Valley News reported that he had bought the old Dillon store building and was preparing to open 'a large stock of harness and saddlery, of his own make,' noting that he was 'one of the largest dealers in Battle Creek.' Within weeks, however, his shop appears under a Correctionville address — North Street — suggesting the business, or Haworth himself, relocated the short distance to Correctionville, Woodbury County, by May 1884. There he kept a full line of harness, saddles, whips, and furnishings, advertising himself as 'a first class workman' of long experience in the trade.

The Correctionville years show a man thoroughly woven into the life of a small Iowa town. He led a class at the First Methodist Episcopal Church for many years, served on the committee organizing a church carnival and strawberry festival in 1885, and was listed among the 'official members' of the district conference of the Methodist church held that August. In January 1887 he was serving as Chaplain of the local Grand Army of the Republic post, Wm. Baker Post No. 298 — a fitting office for a veteran of Company C.

His harness business, however, went the way of the Toledo shop: by November 1885 the Sioux Valley News was running price-cutting advertisements ('THEY FELL DOWN to Bed Rock,' 'THE BOTTOM HAS ENTIRELY FALLEN OUT'), and in August 1886 the paper

reported plainly that Haworth had closed his harness shop, turning over the goods on hand to his creditors. He found new employment soon after: by August 1889 he had taken charge of the furniture stock purchased by local photographer C. Butler, the paper noting that Haworth 'had experience in the business.'

Family life continued alongside these business fortunes. In November 1890, roughly sixty guests gathered at the Haworth home to celebrate Howard and Margaret's twenty-fifth wedding anniversary, followed by a supper at the Hotel Thornton that the paper called 'a grand affair'; about seventy dollars in silverware was presented, with gifts arriving from as far as Chicago, Wichita, and Albany, Oregon. In April 1896, lightning struck a tree in the Haworths' front yard during a severe storm, tearing up the ground to a depth of two feet and breaking several windows — a vivid, if alarming, domestic footnote.

> *The 1886 failure of the Correctionville harness shop, following the earlier Toledo failure of 1870, suggests a working life marked by recurring financial instability even as Haworth remained a respected and active figure in his community's church and fraternal life. The two strands — business difficulty and civic standing — are not in tension so much as characteristic of the period, when creditworthiness and personal reputation operated on somewhat separate tracks.*

The most significant family event of the Correctionville years came on August 26, 1896, when Ella May Haworth married Harvey S. Dartt of Owatonna, Minnesota, at her parents' home; the Sioux Valley News described the bride as 'one of Correctionville's most popular and gifted young ladies,' noting she had taught music in the public school for two years and would be missed 'in the church, in the school and in the social circle.'

## AUSTIN, MINNESOTA: A BRIEF INTERLUDE (1898–1899)

After Ella married and settled in Owatonna, Minnesota, the Haworths relocated to Austin, Minnesota, in the fall of 1898. That September, the Sioux Valley News reported that Margaret was traveling ahead—visiting Omaha, Lincoln, and Toledo, Iowa—before meeting Howard at their new home in early October.

Their time in Austin proved brief. Local newspapers noted the couple visiting their daughter and son-in-law that November and again at Christmas. By April 1899, their stay was over; the Austin Daily Herald reported that "M. F. Haworth, the Second Hand Store man" had moved his inventory to Fort Dodge, Iowa, to open a similar shop. Despite the newspaper's phrasing, Margaret was the one actually running the store. Having her initials on the business aligned

with subsequent Fort Dodge city directory listings, which officially recorded the secondhand shop as a joint venture between husband and wife.

## FORT DODGE, IOWA: MERCHANT AND VETERAN (1899–1911)

The Haworths settled at 1211 First Avenue North in Fort Dodge, Webster County, where Howard would spend the last dozen years of his life. The city directory of the early 1900s lists 'Haworth M F & Co (Margaret F. and Howard Haworth), second hand goods,' with a storefront at 819 Central Avenue — a partnership business run jointly with his wife, continuing the pattern established in Austin. By the time of the 1905 Iowa state census, however, Howard's occupation was recorded as 'Restaurant Keeper,' with twelve months unemployed the previous year; the census also confirms his Civil War service, his Indiana birth, and his parents' birthplaces of Ohio and North Carolina, and shows the family owning their home, valued at $1,600 with a $200 encumbrance.

Howard remained active in the Methodist church and in temperance work. An October 1903 financial report from the North-west Iowa Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, meeting at Sioux City, lists Mrs. Howard Haworth among the stewards of Fort Dodge's First M.E. Church and Howard himself on its temperance committee. In April 1902, he was called by telegram to Toledo, Iowa, to attend the funeral of a brother (James).

The clearest glimpse of how the town regarded its old soldier comes from June 1909, when Fort Dodge merchants decorated their windows for a Grand Army of the Republic encampment. The Fort Dodge Messenger described elaborate, patriotically themed displays along Central Avenue, and singled out the Boston Store's red, white, and blue windows, which included an oil painting of the city's founder and, displayed among the war relics, the bullet-riddled coat Haworth had worn in 1861 — physical testimony, nearly fifty years on, of the six months he had spent in Company C.

## DEATH: JULY 10, 1911

On July 4, 1911, Howard Haworth suffered a stroke of paralysis while at Oleson Park in Fort Dodge. The Fort Dodge Messenger reported the next day that he had been taken home and was 'resting easily,' but he did not recover. That same day — apparently before or just after the stroke was fully apparent — he executed his last will and testament at Fort Dodge, leaving

his entire estate to Margaret for her lifetime, with the remainder to pass to Ella May Dartt upon Margaret's death; Margaret was named executrix, to serve without bond.

He lingered for five days. The cause of death was hemiplegia, of six days' duration, and recorded the time of death as two o'clock in the afternoon of July 10, 1911, at the family home in Fort Dodge. Margaret F. Haworth was the informant on the death certificate, which gave Howard's age as seventy and recorded his parents as Levi Haworth of Ohio and Phebe Haworth of North Carolina. He was buried at Oakland Cemetery, Fort Dodge, on July 12th, with the funeral held at the family home that afternoon, conducted by the home pastor assisted by Rev. J. W. Lothian of Sioux City — the same minister who, fifteen years earlier, had officiated at Ella's wedding in Correctionville, described in the obituary as 'an old and especially esteemed friend.'

His obituary, published in the Traer Star Clipper on July 28, 1911 — in Tama County, near where he had begun his working life — noted that he had joined the church at eighteen and remained a member until his death, and that Ella, 'now Mrs. Dart, of Owatonna, Minn.,' had been with him during his last hours. Relatives who traveled from a distance for the funeral included Mrs. Agnes Haworth and Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Haworth of Toledo, Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Haworth of New Sharon, John Mericle of Laurens, and Eli Haworth of Armstrong — a scattering of the wider Haworth family across Iowa that the Correctionville and Fort Dodge years alone do not otherwise reveal.

## SUMMARY

Howard Horton Haworth's life traced a common nineteenth-century Iowa arc, made distinctive by its particular details. Six months as a private in Company C, 6th Iowa Infantry, carried him through the regiment's first hard campaign in Missouri under Frémont and left him discharged for disability at La Mine Bridge in January 1862 — an injury severe enough to shred the coat he was wearing and to draw an invalid pension that grew, rather than shrank, across three decades and four reissues. He carried that history quietly for the rest of his working life, until the town he had settled in put the bullet-riddled coat itself on display in a shop window in 1909, two years before his death. He built and rebuilt a harness trade across three Iowa counties, twice ending in financial failure and twice giving way to new work. He and Margaret adopted a daughter in 1880 who became, by every account, the center of their

later family life, and whose 1896 wedding the Correctionville paper covered with evident local pride.

He was, across the record, a joiner and a steady presence: a Methodist class leader, a temperance committee member, a Grand Army of the Republic chaplain, a man whose twenty-fifth wedding anniversary drew sixty guests and gifts from as far as Oregon. He ended his working life as a secondhand-goods merchant and, briefly, a restaurant keeper in Fort Dodge, and he died there in July 1911, five days after a stroke, at the age of seventy — his old war coat still on display in a shop window across town only two years before, a small but telling measure of how the town he had settled in remembered what he had once done.

## SOURCES

### Vital and Legal Records

Military Service Roster — Haworth, Howard [Hayworth], Private, Co. C, 6th Iowa Infantry; enlisted July 4, 1861, mustered July 17, 1861, Iowa Falls; mustered out January 17, 1862, La Mine Bridge, Missouri, discharged for disability. Source: Roster & Record of Iowa Soldiers in the War of the Rebellion.

Civil War Draft Enrollment — Schedule I, Consolidated List, 6th Congressional District (Tama County), Iowa, June–July 1863; Toledo residence, entries for Haworth, Alpheus (28), Haworth, Howard (22, harnessmaker), and Haworth, James (21).

Sheriff's Sale Notice, Tama County District Court — Henry Howdyshell vs. Howard Haworth et al., May 4, 1870; judgment $720.53; real estate in Toledo, Tama County, Iowa.

Deed of Adoption — E. G. Chandler to Howard Haworth, Ida County, Iowa, Book A, Page 190; executed January 13, 1880, filed January 14, 1880; gives child Ella Chandler (age 6 years, 2 months, 9 days) for adoption as Ella May Haworth; certified copy issued July 24, 2007, Colleen Gries, Ida County Recorder.

Invalid Pension Index Card — Haworth, Howard, Co. C, 6th Iowa Infantry; filed September 12, 1881; Application No. 429,056; Certificate No. 528,071.

Marriage License, Affidavit, and Certificate — Harvey S. Dartt and Ella May Haworth, Woodbury County, Iowa, Marriage Record 'K,' p. 340; affidavit sworn by H. Haworth, August 24, 1896; married August 26, 1896, Correctionville, Rev. J. W. Lothian officiating; filed September 3, 1896.

Fort Dodge City Directory (undated, early 1900s) — 'Haworth M F & Co (Margaret F. and Howard Haworth), second hand goods, 819 Central av'; residence 1211 1st av N.

Iowa State Population Schedule, 1905 — Card No. 1306, Webster County, Fort Dodge Ward 3; Howard Haworth, age 65, Restaurant Keeper, born Indiana; parents born Ohio and North Carolina; Civil War service, Co. C, 6th Iowa Infantry, enlisted April 1861, discharged June 17, 1862 [conflicts with regimental roster; see context note].

VA Pension Payment Cards — Hayworth, Howard, Certificate No. 528071, Army Invalid, Act of February 6, 1907 / General Law; reissues dated February 20–April 13, 1907 and March 5–23, 1910; summary card recording death July 1911 and accrued pension payable to widow Margaret F. Haworth, order dated August 2, 1912.

Last Will and Testament of Howard Haworth — Webster County, Iowa, Will Record No. 5, pp. 194–195; executed July 5, 1911; witnesses Mrs. J. W. Christy and H. W. Stowe; admitted to probate September 20, 1911, Margaret Frances Haworth named executrix without bond.

Certificate of Death — Howard Hayworth [Haworth], State of Iowa, Webster County; No. 1211; cause: hemiplegia (duration 6 days); attending physician Jno. M. Barrett, M.D.; informant Mrs. H. Hayworth; filed July 11, 1911; burial Oakland Cemetery, July 12, 1911.

Widow's Pension Index Card — Haworth, Margaret F.; filed July 17, 1911; Application No. 968,542; Certificate No. 746,221.

Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Iowa, Record Card (undated compilation, post-1911) — Hayworth, Howard; occupation Merchant; b. 1840; d. July 9, 1911, Fort Dodge, Iowa [cf. death certificate's July 10]; Co. C, 6th Iowa Infantry.

## Newspaper Sources

The Toledo Chronicle (Toledo, Iowa) • May 1, 1868 (sale of Becker & Haworth interest) • July 8, 1869 (sale of harness business to J. T. Miller) • May 12, 1870 (sheriff's sale notice)

Sioux Valley News (Correctionville, Iowa) • March 27, 1884 • April 17, 1884 • May 22, 1884 • November 20, 1884 • December 25, 1884 • March 26, 1885 • May 28, 1885 • August 12, 1885 • November 12, 1885 • November 26, 1885 • August 19, 1886 • January 13, 1887 • August 1, 1889 • November 13, 1890 (silver wedding) • November 20, 1890 (list of presents) • April 30, 1896 (lightning strike) • August 27, 1896 (Dart–Haworth wedding) • September 15, 1898 (departure for Austin, Minnesota)

The Daily Times (Iowa) • May 20, 1895 (pension reissue notice)

The People's Press (Owatonna, Minnesota) • November 18, 1898 • December 30, 1898 • March 9, 1906

The Austin Daily Herald (Austin, Minnesota) • April 7, 1899 (M. F. Haworth moves secondhand business to Fort Dodge)

Fort Dodge Messenger (Fort Dodge, Iowa) • April 4, 1902 (called to brother's funeral, Toledo) • October 26, 1903 (Methodist church financial report) • June 10, 1909 (G.A.R. encampment window displays, bullet-riddled coat) • July 5, 1911 (stroke of paralysis)

Traer Star Clipper (Traer, Iowa) • July 21, 1911 (illness notice) • July 28, 1911 (obituary) • September 8, 1911 (soldiers' reunion, lists Haworth among veterans deceased in the year past)

## Family and Genealogical Sources

Roster and Records of Iowa Soldiers, War of the Rebellion — Regimental History, 6th Iowa Infantry; and The Civil War Archive, 6th Regiment Iowa Infantry (compiled unit itinerary). Published Iowa Adjutant General compilation, early 20th century. Used for the regiment's campaign movements during Haworth's term of service: muster at Burlington, July 17, 1861; St. Louis duty through September 19, 1861; Frémont's campaign toward Springfield, Missouri, October 7–November 9, 1861; Sedalia and La Mine Bridge, November–December 1861. Accessed July 2026.

FamilySearch profile — Howard Horton Haworth; Vitals, Alternate Names ('Howard Heyworth,' 'Howard Hayworth'), and Events sections (residences 1850–1910, military service, pension, tax assessment); accessed July 2026. Aggregates census, vital, and pension records cited individually above.

# MARGARET FRANCES SHELTON

*Wife • Mother • Milliner • Business Owner*

INDIANA • IOWA • MINNESOTA

*Also known as: Margaret F. Haworth • Mrs. H. Haworth • M. F. Haworth • Margaret Hayworth*

## VITAL STATISTICS

| | |
|---|---|
| **BORN** | July 10, 1846, Knoxville, Madison, Indiana |
| **DIED** | May 18, 1936, Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota (age 89) |
| **BURIAL** | Oakland Cemetery, Fort Dodge, Webster County, Iowa |
| **FATHER** | John W. Shelton (1818 – 1907) |
| **MOTHER** | Sarah Ann Chase (1829 – 1907) |
| **MARRIED** | November 9, 1865, Salt Creek, Tama County, Iowa, to Howard Horton Haworth (1840 – 1911) |
| **CHILDREN** | Ella May (Chandler) Haworth, adopted (1873 – 1963) |
| **SIBLINGS** | Frances Marion Shelton (1848 – 1936)<br>John Shelton (1850 – 1877)<br>Minerva E. Shelton (1851 – 1910)<br>Mary Ellen Shelton (1853 – 1935)<br>Sarah Isabella Shelton (1856 – 1937)<br>William Henry Shelton (1857 -)<br>Jesse H. Shelton (1859 – 1948)<br>Alice Colinda Shelton (1862 – 1926)<br>Samantha Ann Shelton (1863 – 1880)<br>Thomas Edward Shelton (1868 – 1949)<br>Edna Shelton (1868 -)<br>Arthur D. Shelton (1874 – 1950)<br>Arville Shelton (1877 – 1895)<br>Joseph A. Shelton (dates unknown) |

## FAMILY BACKGROUND

Margaret Frances Shelton was born on July 10, 1846, one of fifteen children of John W. Shelton (1818 – 1907) and Sarah Ann Chase (1829 – 1907), who had married about 1845 in Madison, Indiana. The Shelton household was a large one even by the standards of the day — Margaret grew up alongside thirteen siblings ranging in age from Frances Marion down to Joseph, the youngest. By 1850 the family was recorded in Marion Township, Jasper County, Indiana; within two decades they had joined the westward movement of Indiana farm families into Iowa, and by 1870 Margaret and her new husband were established at Toledo, in Tama County.

## MARRIAGE AND EARLY MARRIED LIFE IN IOWA (1865–1880)

On November 9, 1865, at Salt Creek in Tama County, Iowa, Margaret Frances Shelton, not yet twenty, married Howard Horton Haworth, a twenty-five-year-old Indiana-born Civil War veteran who had enlisted in 1861. The marriage would last forty-six years, until Howard's death in 1911, and would take the couple across three states without ever producing a birth child — the couple's only child, a daughter they called Ella, came to them by adoption in the early 1870s.

Howard's Civil War service is only thinly documented in the surviving record, but one detail carries real weight: he filed for, and by 1881 was receiving, an "invalid" pension — the standard nineteenth-century designation for a pension awarded on the basis of a service-connected disability. Whatever the nature of Howard's injury, a diminished capacity for physical labor would have placed real pressure on the young household to find other sources of income. That pressure goes a long way toward explaining why, within a few years of that pension award, Margaret had built a substantial and sustained career of her own as a milliner in Correctionville — not as a sideline, but as a central pillar of the family's support.

> *Marriage in rural, post–Civil War Iowa typically bound a woman's economic life closely to her husband's earning capacity — farm households ran on a wife's unpaid domestic and subsistence labor, with cash income understood as the husband's province. A husband's war-related disability disrupted that arrangement directly, and the gap between a soldier's service and the formal recognition of his disability — often years or decades, as it was for Howard — left many veteran households to manage the interim as best they could. Margaret's working life reads, in that light, less as an unusual departure from convention and more as a practical response to a real and early shortfall in the family's income.*

The Haworths' early married life in Iowa was not without financial difficulty. In May 1870, The Toledo Chronicle carried a sheriff's sale notice arising from a foreclosure judgment in the Tama County District Court: The plaintiff, had won a judgment of $720.53 against Howard Haworth, with Margaret F. Haworth named among the co-defendants whose interest in a Toledo town lot was to be sold to satisfy the debt. It is a small notice, but a telling one — the kind of record that rarely survives for people whose finances stayed unremarkable.

> *Sheriff's sale notices of this kind were a routine feature of small-town Iowa newspapers in the 1870s, part of the standard legal process for collecting on an unpaid judgment through the forced sale of real property. Their survival in the record says nothing unusual about the Haworths' character or standing — many young couples of the period carried debt against town lots — but it does mark 1870 as a financially strained year early in the marriage.*

By 1880 the family had moved on to Battle Creek, in Ida County, Iowa, and by the mid-1880s they had settled in Correctionville, Woodbury County — the town where Margaret would build the professional identity for which the newspaper record remembers her best.

## CORRECTIONVILLE, IOWA: THE MILLINERY TRADE (1885–1898)

It was in Correctionville that Margaret Haworth became a public figure in her own right, not merely as Howard's wife but as "Mrs. H. Haworth," a skilled and sought-after milliner whose comings and goings the Sioux Valley News tracked for well over a decade. The earliest notices, in 1885, show her active in the social and charitable life of the Methodist Episcopal church — helping decorate the sanctuary as a surprise for the pastor, and serving on committees for a church carnival and strawberry festival. But her trade is what the paper returned to again and again.

By March 1888 she was in Des Moines and would soon return to trim hats at the Lyman & Co. millinery store; by 1889 she had been secured by Mrs. Q. A. Christy, whose advertisements promoted Margaret by name as "an experienced hat trimmer" who could "guarantee you satisfaction." The pattern repeated for several seasons: a spring buying trip to Des Moines for the newest stock, then a season spent trimming hats and doing general millinery work at Christy's. By October 1892 she had opened her own establishment, with Miss Nellie Heritage joining her to do dressmaking, and her own advertisements — "I have been to Des Moines and selected my goods at the spring openings" — became a regular feature of the paper through the mid-1890s.

> *Millinery was one of the relatively few trades in which a nineteenth-century American woman could build an independent commercial reputation and real cash income — and for a household where the husband's war disability limited his own earning power, that income was not incidental but essential. The Sioux Valley News clippings show Margaret Haworth building exactly this kind of livelihood over roughly a fifteen-year span — first as a skilled employee sought out by name, then as a proprietor with her own shop and her own seasonal buying trips to Des Moines. It is a more developed professional record than survives for most women of her generation and place, and it reads as the record of a woman supporting her family, not merely occupying her time.*

The Haworths marked their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary in November 1890 with a large celebration — about sixty guests gathered at their home before the party moved to the Hotel Thornton for supper, and the following week's paper published a detailed list of the roughly $70 in silverware they received, from a butter dish and berry dish to hand-engraved cake and pie knives sent by a well-wisher in Albany, Oregon. Among the gifts was a silver cup from "Mother," suggesting one of the couple's parents was still living at the time.

Their daughter Ella — recorded in family records as Ella May Chandler before her adoption by the Haworths — grew up in Correctionville and taught music in the public school for at least two years before her marriage. On August 26, 1896, at the Haworth home, Ella married Harvey S. Dartt of Owatonna, Minnesota, in a ceremony performed by Presiding Elder J. W. Lothian. The Sioux Valley News described the bride as "one of Correctionville's most popular and gifted young ladies" who would be "sadly missed" in the church, school, and social circle — a warm notice that, read alongside the newspaper's years of coverage of her mother's shop, suggests the Haworth women were well established in the town's affections.

Margaret's Correctionville millinery career came to a close in September 1898, when she sold her stock to Zetta Wetmore, an experienced milliner from Kingsley. Within days the paper reported she was leaving to join Howard, who had already relocated ahead of her to a new home at Austin, Minnesota — by way of Battle Creek, Omaha, Lincoln, and Toledo, where she visited a chain of relatives before completing the move.

## AUSTIN AND FORT DODGE (1898–1911)

The Haworths' time in Austin, Minnesota, was brief — and it was Margaret, not Howard, who kept a business running there. A November 1898 advertisement in the Mower County Transcript for "Low Prices" on second-hand furniture and holiday goods names the proprietor as "M. F. Haworth's & Co's" — Margaret's own initials, the same ones under which

she had advertised her millinery trade in Correctionville for over a decade. By April 1899, both the Sioux Valley News and the Austin Daily Herald reported that M. F. Haworth had moved the second-hand store to Fort Dodge, Iowa, to continue the same line of business there.

> *The Austin Daily Herald's April 1899 notice refers to the store's proprietor as "he," and on a first reading it is easy to assume the paper meant Howard. But the initials — M. F., for Margaret Frances — the direct continuity with the "M. F. Haworth" millinery advertisements Margaret had run in Correctionville since the 1880s, and the parallel Sioux Valley News notice using the identical name all point to Margaret as the business's actual proprietor. Nineteenth-century newspapers routinely defaulted to a masculine pronoun for the owner of a listed business, especially when only initials were given, and that default appears to have obscured Margaret's authorship of this venture much as it does in other records of the period. This biography attributes the second-hand store to Margaret accordingly.*

Margaret's name appears in the Fort Dodge social columns from 1901 onward. The 1905 Iowa state census recorded her there as a fifty-seven-year-old milliner, though the same schedule noted twelve months unemployed in the preceding year — suggesting that by this point her formal trade was recorded as milliner even as her earlier initiative with the second-hand goods business shows she continued to find ways to bring in income, with her working seasons in Correctionville by then some years behind her.

Fort Dodge became the Haworths' longest-held home, and the local papers show a couple comfortably settled into late middle age: visiting Margaret's ill parents in Carroll, Iowa, in 1902; taking a ninety-day trip to Spokane, Washington, and the Lewis and Clark Exposition in Portland in the summer of 1905; and making repeated trips to see Ella and her family in Owatonna. In December 1910, Margaret was called to Toledo, Iowa, by the death of a sister.

Howard Haworth died at the family home in Fort Dodge on July 10, 1911, at the age of seventy-one, with Ella at his bedside during his final hours. His obituary in the Traer Star Clipper recalled a man who had joined the church at eighteen and remained a member for life, who had enlisted as a soldier in 1861, and who was remembered by relatives who traveled from as far as Toledo, New Sharon, Laurens, and Armstrong, Iowa, to attend the funeral.

Howard's will, executed five days before his death, left his entire estate to Margaret for her lifetime use and enjoyment — with the right to sell or manage the property as though it were fully hers — and named her sole executrix, to serve without bond. Only after her death would the remainder pass to Ella. The will was admitted to probate in the Webster County District

Court on September 20, 1911, on the testimony of witness H. W. Stowe. Margaret also filed, that same year, for a widow's pension based on Howard's Civil War service; he had held an invalid pension since 1881.

> *That Howard's will placed the entire estate in Margaret's hands for her lifetime, with only the remainder interest going to their daughter, reflects a fairly standard arrangement for the period — but it is nonetheless a document that placed full control of the family's property in her name for the next twenty-five years of her life.*

## WIDOWHOOD: FORT DODGE AND MINNEAPOLIS (1911–1936)

Margaret remained in Fort Dodge for some years after Howard's death — she is recorded there in the 1920 census — continuing her visits to Ella and the Dartt family, including a 1914 trip to see "City Engineer and Mrs. Harvey S. Dartt." By 1930, however, she had relocated to Minneapolis, where she was living at 2747 Seventeenth Avenue South, in the same city as her daughter's family, for the remainder of her life.

Two vivid glimpses of her final years survive in the Minneapolis press. In March 1931, at eighty-four, she appeared — photograph included — in a newspaper advertisement for Konjola, a patent tonic, describing seven months of severe neuritis that had left her unable to turn over in bed unassisted, and crediting the remedy with restoring her appetite and easing her pain. In November 1932, at eighty-six, she was injured when she fell on a streetcar rail at Twenty-third Avenue South and East Thirty-eighth Street.

> *Patent-medicine testimonial advertisements like the 1931 Konjola notice were a common feature of Depression-era newspapers and should be read as commercial copy rather than a medical record — but the specific physical complaints described (neuritis affecting the back and shoulder, to the point of needing help turning in bed) are consistent with the ordinary infirmities of advanced age, and the advertisement remains a rare first-person-voiced document from Margaret's final years.*

## DEATH: MAY 18, 1936

Margaret Frances Haworth died at her home in Minneapolis on May 18, 1936, at the age of eighty-nine years, ten months, and eight days. Her death certificate gives the cause as apoplexy. Her daughter, Ella (Mrs. H. S. Dartt), served as informant. Her body was returned to Iowa and buried at Oakland Cemetery in Fort Dodge — presumably beside Howard, who had died there twenty-five years earlier.

Her death notice in The Minneapolis Journal listed her survivors as one daughter, Mrs. H. S. Dartt; one sister, Mrs. Bell O'Daniels; and five brothers — John, Will, Jesse, Ed, and Arthur Shelton — a reminder of just how large the Shelton family of Margaret's childhood had been, and how much of it had outlived her into her ninth decade.

A notice in the Wadena Pioneer Journal a few days later added a poignant detail: Ella's son, Harvey S. Dartt Jr., and his wife had been called to Minneapolis that same week by the death of his own father, Harvey S. Dartt Sr. (Ella's husband) who was buried at Owatonna, only for the young couple to return to Minneapolis days later for the funeral of "his grandmother, Mrs. Margaret Haworth," who the paper noted "would have been ninety years old in July." Ella lost her husband and her mother within the same week.

## SUMMARY

Margaret Frances Shelton's life traces a route familiar to many nineteenth-century Midwestern women — an Indiana childhood in a large farm family, an early marriage that carried her across the young state of Iowa, a name recorded mostly in relation to her husband's — and yet the Correctionville newspaper record recovers something more particular: a working milliner who built and sustained her own trade for the better part of fifteen years, seasonally restocking from Des Moines, training alongside another milliner before striking out with her own shop, and remaining a recognized tradeswoman in a small Iowa town long after her marriage was itself old news.

She and Howard raised one daughter by adoption, weathered an early financial judgment in Tama County, and settled at last in Fort Dodge, where Howard's death in 1911 left Margaret in sole control of the family estate for the last quarter-century of her own long life. She died in Minneapolis in 1936, five months short of her ninetieth birthday, and was carried home to Iowa to be buried beside the husband she had married in 1865.

## SOURCES

### Vital and Legal Records

Widow's Pension Card (National Archives index) — Haworth, Howard (soldier); Haworth, Margaret F. (widow); Iowa; invalid [disability] application filed September 12, 1881 (No. 429,056, Cert. 528,071); widow's application filed July 17, 1911 (No. 968,542, Cert. 746,221).

Register of Marriage (Correctionville, Iowa) — Harvey S. Dartt and Ella May Haworth (parents Howard/Margaret Haworth), married August 26, 1896.

Population Schedule, 1905 Iowa State Census — Webster County, Fort Dodge, Ward 3; Card No. B104; Margaret J. [F.] Haworth, age 57, born Indiana (mother North Carolina, father Ohio — conflicts with death certificate parentage); occupation: milliner; months unemployed in 1904: 12; conjugal condition: married; signed C. A. Bryant, Assessor.

Will Record No. 5, Webster County, Iowa — Last Will of Howard Haworth, executed July 5, 1911, Fort Dodge; names Margaret Frances Haworth as sole beneficiary for life and executrix without bond, remainder to daughter Ella May Dartt; probated September 20, 1911, C. A. Bryant, Clerk, District Court of Webster County.

Certificate of Death — Margarette Francis Haworth, State of Minnesota, Division of Vital Statistics, Hennepin County; No. 2275, State File No. 21483; born July 10, 1846, Noxville [Knoxville], Indiana; father John Shelton (birthplace unknown), mother Sarah Chase (b. South Carolina); principal cause: apoplexy; widow of Howard Horton Haworth; occupation: housework; informant Mrs. H. S. Dartt, 2747 – 17th Ave. So., Minneapolis; buried/removed to Fort Dodge, Iowa; undertaker Anderson Brothers; filed May 21, 1936.

FamilySearch profile — Margaret Frances Shelton, Person ID LCPV-5XY; accessed July 2026. Lists birth as July 10, 1846, Madison, Indiana; parents John W. Shelton and Sarah Ann Chase; fourteen siblings; marriage to Howard Horton Haworth, November 9, 1865, Salt Creek, Tama, Iowa; one adoptive child, Sarah Newella May Chandler. Residence entries for 1850, 1870, 1880, 1885, 1895, 1898–1899, 1900, 1905, 1910, 1920, and 1930 compiled from census and newspaper sources are drawn from this profile.

## Newspaper Sources

The Toledo Chronicle (Toledo, Iowa) • May 12, 1870 (Sheriff's sale notice, foreclosure judgment naming Howard Haworth and Margaret F. Haworth among defendants)

Sioux Valley News (Correctionville, Iowa) • Apr. 9, 1885 • May 28, 1885 • Mar. 22, 1888 • Apr. 11, 1889 • Mar. 13, 1890 • Apr. 3, 1890 • Nov. 13, 1890 (silver wedding anniversary) • Nov. 20, 1890 (list of anniversary gifts) • Mar. 24, 1892 • Apr. 14, 1892 • Jun. 2, 1892 • Oct. 13, 1892 • Feb. 15, 1894 • Jun. 14, 1894 • Apr. 12, 1895 • Aug. 27, 1896 (marriage, Ella Haworth and H. S. Dart) • Apr. 1, 1897 • Jul. 22, 1897 • Aug. 19, 1897 • Nov. 11, 1897 • Nov. 18, 1897 (public sale notice) • Jul. 21, 1898 • Aug. 4, 1898 • Sep. 8, 1898 (sale of millinery stock to Zetta Wetmore) • Sep. 15, 1898 (departure for Austin, Minnesota) • Apr. 6, 1899 (M. F. Haworth's move from Austin to Fort Dodge) • Aug. 15, 1901

The People's Press (Owatonna, Minnesota) • Aug. 12, 1898 • Nov. 18, 1898 • Dec. 30, 1898 • Mar. 9, 1906 • Jul. 14, 1911 • Aug. 7, 1914

Mower County Transcript (Austin, Minnesota) • Nov. 23, 1898 (M. F. Haworth's second-hand furniture store advertisement) • Feb. 8, 1899

The Minneapolis Journal • Feb. 3, 1899 • May 19, 1936 (death notice)

The Austin Daily Herald (Austin, Minnesota) • Apr. 7, 1899 (M. F. Haworth's second-hand store moved to Fort Dodge)

Fort Dodge Messenger (Fort Dodge, Iowa) • Sep. 12, 1902 • Jul. 11, 1905 • Dec. 13, 1910

Traer Star Clipper (Traer, Iowa) • Jul. 28, 1911 (obituary, Howard Haworth)

Star Tribune (Minneapolis, Minnesota) • Mar. 24, 1931 (Konjola advertisement/testimonial)

The Minneapolis Star • Nov. 19, 1932 (streetcar rail injury notice)

Wadena Pioneer Journal (Wadena, Minnesota) • May 21, 1936 (death notice, connects to Dartt family movements)

## Family and Genealogical Sources

FamilySearch profile — Margaret Frances Shelton, Person ID LCPV-5XY, and Howard Horton Haworth, Person ID LCPV-5XX; accessed July 2026. Note: a prior edit on the profile (26 Sep. 2015) flags an unresolved conflict over the birthplace — "Information that was there said Knoxville, Madison, Indiana" — which was apparently revised to "Madison, Indiana" without full explanation. Treated here as an open question; see note in Family Background.

# ELBRIDGE GERRY CHANDLER

*Civil War Veteran • Butcher • Farmer*

MAINE • IOWA

*Also known as: E. G. Chandler • Elbridge G. Chandler • Elbridge Gerrish Chandler*

## VITAL STATISTICS

| | |
|---|---|
| **BORN** | May 18, 1827, Dover-Foxcroft, Piscataquis County, Maine |
| **DIED** | October 10, 1901, Pleasant Grove Township (Pleasantville), Marion County, Iowa (age 74) |
| **BURIAL** | Cambridge Cemetery, Cambridge, Story County, Iowa (October 16, 1901) |
| **FATHER** | Sylvanus Chandler (1799 – 1882) |
| **MOTHER** | Sarah Harlow (1803 – 1880) |
| **FIRST MARRIAGE** | November 27, 1854, Richmond, Sagadahoc County, Maine, to Sarah Ann Odiorne (1829 – 1857) |
| **SECOND MARRIAGE** | May 16, 1858, Chesterville, Franklin County, Maine, to Caroline S. Foote (1837–1879) |
| **THIRD MARRIAGE** | March 31, 1886, Nevada, Story County, Iowa, to Medora Elizabeth Chandler (1856 – 1921) |
| **CHILDREN** | With Sarah Ann Odiorne:<br>Sarah E. Chandler (b. 1857 – 1860 )<br><br>With Caroline S. Foote:<br>Elmer Augustus Chandler (1860 – 1944)<br>George Franklin Chandler (1861 – 1948)<br>Henry Hartman Chandler (1867 – 1952)<br>Vestal Noah Chandler (1869 – 1956)<br>Clarinda Alice. Chandler (1871 – 1922)<br>Ella May Chandler (1873 – 1963) — given for adoption in 1880 as Ella May Haworth<br>Arthur Elmer Chandler (1876 – 1908) — given for adoption in 1880 as Arthur Virgil |

| | |
|---|---|
| | With Medora Elizabeth Chandler:<br>Golden O. Chandler (1888 – deceased) |
| **SIBLINGS** | Clarinda Austin Chandler (1825 – 1865)<br>Volney Alpheus Chandler (1828 – 1908)<br>Livona Gould Chandler (1830 – 1855)<br>Martha Jane Chandler (1832 – 1918)<br>Sylvanus Chandler Jr. (1834 – 1896)<br>Sarah Harlow Chandler (1835 – 1931)<br>Levi Jason Chandler (1838 – 1901)<br>George Franklin Chandler (1842 – 1866)<br>Rosaltha Elizabeth Chandler (1844 – 1931) |

## FAMILY BACKGROUND

Elbridge Gerry Chandler was born May 18, 1827, in Dover-Foxcroft, Piscataquis County, Maine, the son of Sylvanus Chandler and Sarah Harlow. His full given name places him among the many New England boys of his generation named for the Revolutionary-era statesman, American founding father and Massachusetts governor Elbridge Gerry. He grew up in the Piscataquis and Kennebec River country of central Maine, and by 1850 the record places him at Sebec, a few miles from his birthplace, still in his early twenties and not yet started on the eventful life that followed.

> *Piscataquis County, organized in 1838 from parts of Penobscot and Somerset counties, was still a young and thinly settled district when Chandler was born. The towns of Dover, Foxcroft, and Sebec sat along the Piscataquis River in farming and timber country typical of interior Maine in the early nineteenth century.*

## GARDINER, MAINE: A FRAUD CHARGE (1853)

By August 1853, Elbridge (age 26) — recorded in the court papers as "Enoch G. Chandler," an apparent clerical variant of his name — was living in Gardiner, Maine, and in serious legal trouble. Daniel S. Johnson, a Gardiner merchant, complained on oath that Elbridge had, on December 27, 1852, obtained a hundred dollars' worth of English and American dry goods from him "by false pretenses," with intent to cheat and defraud.

Elbridge was brought before a local police judge, George W. Batchelder, who decided there was enough evidence to proceed with the case. To stay out of jail while waiting for his formal trial in Augusta, he and a co-signer posted a $160 bond. This money served as a guarantee that Chandler would show up for his court date later that month.

The court issued subpoenas to five men summoning them to testify against Elbridge. Despite these preparations, the case went no further. The surviving bill of costs is marked "no bill," meaning the grand jury ultimately declined to indict him, and the charges were dropped before ever going to trial.

> *A "no bill" disposition meant the grand jury, reviewing the evidence presented by the prosecution, did not find sufficient cause to formally charge Chandler with a crime. The episode nonetheless establishes that Chandler, at about twenty-six, was already known to Gardiner's merchant community and had run afoul of it.*

## FIRST MARRIAGE: SARAH ANN ODIORNE (1854–1857)

On November 27, 1854, Elbridge married Sarah Ann Odiorne, the ceremony held at Richmond, Maine; both parties were recorded as residents of Gardiner. Sarah, born November 5, 1829, was the daughter of Samuel John Odiorne; a published Odiorne family genealogy records that she "married Elbridge Chandler, and had only one child, which died." A later family genealogical compilation names that child as Sarah Chandler, born about 1857 in Maine — the same year her mother died.

Sarah Ann's gravestone stands in the Morgridge Family Cemetery in Litchfield, Kennebec County, Maine. While the stone records her death date as May 2, 1857, at the age of twenty-seven years and six months, this conflicts slightly with both a contemporary newspaper notice and the Odiorne genealogy. Both of those sources record her death as May 5—which was the day she was buried.

Beneath her name and dates, the stone features a common mid-nineteenth-century New England epitaph:

"She sleeps in Jesus and is blessed, how sweet her slumbers are, from suffering and from sin released, and free from every care."

## SECOND MARRIAGE (1858)

Elbridge did not remain a widower long. On May 16, 1858, he and Caroline S. Foote, both of Gardiner, filed their intention to marry; the ceremony itself took place nine days later, on May 16, 1858, in Chesterville, Maine, and was reported in the Portland papers the following week. Caroline — whose name appears in a later family compilation as Caroline T. S. Foote — was born in 1837 and would become the mother of the children who carried the Chandler name forward.

The couple's first two children arrived before the war reached their household: Elmer Augustus Chandler, born January 10, 1860, and George Franklin Chandler, born September 3, 1861. Both boys were not yet toddlers when their father enlisted the following year — the Civil War would interrupt this young family well before it was fully formed.

## CIVIL WAR SERVICE: 1ST MAINE CAVALRY, COMPANY E (1862–1865)

On August 13, 1862, at Dresden, Maine, Elbridge enlisted as a private in Company E of the 1st Maine Cavalry, giving his age as thirty-four — notably older than most cavalry recruits. The regiment, organized at Augusta and mustered in November 5, 1861, had just reunited at Warrenton, Virginia, on July 10, 1862, after months of separate service guarding the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad and operating in the Shenandoah Valley, when Elbridge joined it roughly five weeks later.

> *His presence at most engagements below is inferred from his company and regimental assignment matched against the regiment's official campaign history, not from a personal account naming him at each battle. Two exceptions — Malvern Hill, where he was wounded, and the final campaign ending at Appomattox — are documented directly in his own 1883 pension testimony, discussed below.*

## 1862: ENTERING THE WAR

Antietam (September 16–17, 1862): The single bloodiest day in American military history; the tactical draw gave Lincoln the opening to issue the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. Company E saw no direct combat here, held behind the lines at Frederick, Maryland, as provost guards — but the massive operation was still Elbridge's first immersion in large-scale army logistics.

Battle of Fredericksburg (December 12–15, 1862): One of the Union's most lopsided defeats, as General Burnside sent wave after wave of infantry against entrenched Confederate defenders on Marye's Heights. Elbridge was fully with the regiment by then, and endured both the battle and the "Mud March" that followed.

The "Mud March" (January 20–23, 1863): Burnside's attempt to redeem Fredericksburg by marching upriver to strike Lee's flank collapsed when freezing rain turned the roads to bottomless mud, swallowing artillery and wagons and costing Burnside his command. As a cavalryman, Elbridge would have spent it hauling mired gun carriages out of the muck and fording swollen streams rather than fighting.

## 1863–1864: HIS CORE COMBAT RECORD

As part of Company E, Elbridge was present for the regiment's most legendary campaigns:

Stoneman's Raid (April–May 1863): A deep cavalry raid behind Confederate lines, timed with the Chancellorsville campaign to sever Lee's rail communications with Richmond; rain and poor coordination blunted its impact.

Battle of Brandy Station (June 9, 1863): The largest predominantly cavalry battle ever fought in North America, opening the Gettysburg campaign; though inconclusive, it was the first time Union cavalry fought Confederate cavalry to a standstill.

Battle of Upperville (June 21, 1863): A sharp cavalry engagement in the Loudoun Valley as Union horsemen pressed to locate Lee's advancing army.

Battle of Gettysburg (July 1–3, 1863): The largest battle ever fought in North America and a turning point of the war; the 1st Maine screened the army's flanks and skirmished east of the main battlefield.

The Overland Campaign (May–June 1864): Grant's relentless, month-long drive to grind down Lee's army through continuous contact, including fighting in the Wilderness, at Spotsylvania Court House, at Todd's Tavern, and in the cavalry clash at Haw's Shop.

Sheridan's Raids (1864): Deep cavalry strikes toward Richmond meant to draw out Confederate cavalry; the first culminated at Yellow Tavern in May, where J.E.B. Stuart was mortally wounded.

## SICK, WOUNDED, AND HOSPITALIZED (1863–1864)

Elbridge's own 1883 pension testimony fills in what the regimental record cannot. In July 1863 he fell ill with "intermittent fever" and was hospitalized in Washington before rejoining his regiment at Cold Harbor in spring 1864. The more serious injury came that summer: escorting sick and wounded to White House Landing, then riding to Malvern Hill, where the regiment engaged Confederate forces on July 29, 1864. In his words: "In a charge was thrown from my horse by his falling and my back was so badly hurt that I was sent to the Hospital at City Point." He developed chronic diarrhea there and spent three to four months at the general hospital in Point Lookout, Maryland.

At Point Lookout he was marked for transfer to what he called the "Condemned Yankee Corps" — soldiers' slang for the Veteran Reserve Corps, made up of men no longer fit for full combat duty — but refused it and returned to his regiment instead. By his own account he "went through the last of the campaign" and "was glad to see Lee surrinder," discharged, he recalled, "by Special Order for all soldiers whose terms expired sometime in August" — a recollection consistent with the documented record, since his three-year term would have run to August 1865.

## 1865: PROMOTION AND MUSTER OUT

In early February 1865 the 1st Maine fought at Dabney's Mill and Hatcher's Run, part of the effort to sever the Boydton Plank Road, one of Lee's last supply routes. Then, in the Appomattox campaign that finally broke the Confederate defense of Petersburg and Richmond, the regiment rode with Sheridan through Dinwiddie Court House, Five Forks, Namozine Church, Amelia Springs, Sailor's Creek, and Appomattox Station, present at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865, when Lee surrendered.

Promotion to Corporal: He earned a promotion to corporal in 1865 — evidence, after years of hard cavalry service as an older recruit, that he was seen as reliable and capable.

Muster Out (May 29, 1865): He was honorably discharged just weeks after Lee's surrender and returned home to Maine.

> *The 1st Maine Cavalry paid a heavier price than any other Union cavalry regiment: 518 killed, mortally wounded, or dead of disease. That Elbridge served with Company E from August 1862*

> *through the war's final campaigns and came home alive placed him among a minority of his regiment's original wartime strength.*

## LIFELONG DISABILITY AND THE PENSION CLAIM

Elbridge's war did not end cleanly at muster-out. He filed for an invalid pension on July 28, 1865, examined by Dr. D. L. Russell of Wilton, Maine. In 1883 testimony he described the cost of the Malvern Hill injury: "the first year after my discharge was confined to my bed about one half of my time," and that he had since been "continually with the [chronic diarrhea], neuralgia and the piles" — conditions absent before his enlistment — and "not been able to perform more than one third of manual labor of a well man." The claim was complicated by the circumstances of the injury: he had been away from his command when hurt, and his company commander was killed days before Lee's surrender, leaving no one to corroborate the incident directly.

Over the following decades Elbridge was treated by a succession of physicians as the family moved west, and his regimental surgeon, Horace M. Stevens of Cambridge, Massachusetts, eventually provided a supporting affidavit. The pension was approved under Certificate No. 320395; in April 1902 his widow Medora filed her own survivor's claim on the same service record.

> *Elbridge's pension testimony is a rare instance of him speaking in his own voice at length, and it recasts his postwar life: a man who farmed, butchered, remarried twice, and raised a large family while living with chronic gastrointestinal illness, nerve pain, and disabling weakness that never fully resolved. His obituary's note that he "had been in very poor health since he returned from the war" reads, in this light, as a specific thirty-six-year disability dating to one afternoon at Malvern Hill.*

## IOWA: BUTCHER AND FARMER IN SAC AND IDA COUNTIES (1867–1879)

Sometime after the war, Elbridge brought Caroline and their growing family west to Iowa. His son, Henry, was born in Cambridge, Story County Iowa in July 1867. A later obituary for Caroline places their arrival "in this vicinity" — the Newell, Iowa area of Buena Vista and Sac counties — in the spring of 1869, and the 1870 census finds the family at Sac City, Coon Township, Buena Vista County. By 1879 they had moved again, this time to Battle Creek in neighboring Ida County, where family records and the 1880 census place them. Elbridge's later

Grand Army of the Republic membership record gives his occupation as butcher, a trade he would follow for much of his remaining life in Iowa alongside farming.

> *The Sac, Ida, and Buena Vista County district of northwestern Iowa was in the midst of active agricultural settlement in the years immediately following the Civil War, drawing veterans and their families westward under the promise of inexpensive farmland. Elbridge's several moves within this corridor — Sac City, then Battle Creek — track a common pattern among settlers still searching for the right piece of ground.*

## DEATH OF CAROLINE AND THE ADOPTION OF ELLA AND ARTHUR (1879–1888)

Caroline Chandler died of heart disease at the family's home near Battle Creek on Wednesday, December 31, 1879, at the age of forty-two. The Newell Mirror's notice the following week was warm in its regret, describing her as "one of the best of women" and "well known for her kindness and loving disposition," and noting that she left "a large family and numerous friends to mourn her loss."

Barely two weeks later, on January 13, 1880, Elbridge executed a formal deed of adoption, relinquishing his daughter Ella, six and one-half years old, to Howard Haworth of Ida County. The document, recorded the next day at the county courthouse, provided that the child "will hereafter be known as Ella May Haworth" and that Haworth would raise her as his own. Both men signed before a justice of the peace.

Ella was not the only child placed that winter. The 1880 federal census, taken at Battle Creek that June, shows Ella already settled in the Haworth household and, on the very next census page, Elbridge's youngest son — not yet four years old — recorded in the household of Charles H. Virgil under the name Arthur Virgil. No adoption deed for Arthur has been located, but the census placement, on a consecutive page in the same small village enumeration where Elbridge himself was also recorded, makes clear that both of his two youngest children by Caroline had been placed with new families within months of her death.

> *1880 U.S. Census, Village of Battle Creek, Ida County, Iowa, enumerated June 28, 1880: Ella (Haworth) Chandler appears in the Haworth household on one census page, and Arthur — recorded as Arthur Virgil, in the household of Charles H. Virgil — appears on the very next page; Elbridge G. Chandler himself is separately recorded nearby on the same page.*

The timing — a widower with a large family, arranging within two weeks of his wife's death to place his two youngest children with other families — suggests a practical response to a household suddenly without a mother, rather than any lack of affection for the children. By 1880 Chandler had six other living children by Caroline, ranging from Elmer Augustus and George Franklin, both approaching adulthood, down to Clarinda Alice, then in her mid-teens — old enough, evidently, to remain useful members of their father's household in a way that Ella, not yet seven, and Arthur, not yet four, were not.

Arthur's placement did not last. A notice in the Battle Creek Times on May 31, 1888, recorded that Charles H. Virgil's "adopted son, Arthur Virgil, … has left his bed and board without just cause or provocation," and warned the public not to trust or harbor him, as Virgil would not be responsible for his debts. Arthur, by then about eleven or twelve, had run away. That August, the same paper reported the sequel: "Clara Chandler, who is working at the Booge House, Sioux City, came here last week after her brother, Arthur Virgil, and will take him to his father. Before leaving she bought him a neat suit of clothes." His older sister's trip closed the circle Elbridge had opened eight years earlier — Arthur returning, at last, to his birth family.

> *The Battle Creek Times (Battle Creek, Iowa), May 31, 1888, and August 16, 1888. Together these two items are the only record located of Arthur's life between the 1880 census and his eventual reappearance in family records under the Chandler name.*

## CAMBRIDGE, IOWA: THIRD MARRIAGE AND LATER YEARS (1885–1901)

By the mid-1880s, Elbridge had settled in Cambridge, Iowa, where he continued working as a butcher. On March 31, 1886, he married for a third time in Nevada, the Story County seat. His bride was twenty-nine-year-old Medora Elizabeth, an Illinois native and the daughter of William Chandler and Phebe Rebecca Mason. Medora was Elbridge's first cousin once removed: both descended from Ichabod Chandler (1762–1838) and Olive Fish (1757–1832) of Pembroke, Massachusetts. Ichabod and Olive were Elbridge's grandparents through his father Sylvanus, and Medora's great-grandparents through her father William's father, Josiah Little Chandler. On January 19, 1888, the couple welcomed their only son, Golden O. Chandler, who was Elbridge's nineth and final child.

Throughout his years in Iowa, Elbridge continued to receive his Civil War pension. In 1888, an Omaha newspaper listing of Iowa pension increases included "Elbridge G. Chandler, Cambridge" among veterans receiving benefit adjustments. The Grand Army of the Republic's Department of Iowa also carried him on its rolls, recording his occupation as a Cambridge butcher and preserving a detailed summary of his military service alongside his eventual date of death.

Census and residence records show that the family moved one last time around 1895, settling southeast of Des Moines in the Pleasantville and Pleasant Grove Township area of Marion County. Following Elbridge's death, Medora married Harris Peters — another Civil War veteran on June 26, 1902, in Fort Dodge, Webster County, Iowa. Medora passed away in 1921.

## DEATH: OCTOBER 10, 1901

Elbridge G. Chandler died at his home in Pleasantville, Iowa, on October 10, 1901, at the age of seventy-four years and six months. His obituary — published in the Maxwell Tribune on October 24, 1901, and written by his sister, Sarah H. Chandler Miller ("Mrs. J. H. Miller") — recorded that he "had been in very poor health since he returned from the war," and that although "death came suddenly, being confined to his bed only a few days," he was a man of quiet faith for whom, in his sister's words, "death had no terrors" and "came as a happy release."

His widow, Medora, and his daughter Clara — who had by then settled in Arizona — accompanied his remains to Cambridge, Story County, on October 15th. A short service was held the following morning at the home of one of Chandler's brothers, after which he was buried in the Cambridge Cemetery, six days after his death. The obituary noted that Sarah herself had traveled from Maxwell to Cambridge to attend, and that she had "the sympathy of many friends in her sorrow."

His widow, Medora E. Chandler, filed for a widow's Civil War pension the following April, in 1902, drawing on her husband's Company E, 1st Maine Cavalry service record. The Grand Army of the Republic's Department of Iowa preserved his war record in its membership rolls: "Pvt., Co. E, 1 Maine Cav. Age 34, res. Foxcroft. Must Aug 13, 1862... Disch. Gen. Order No. 83, Post 234... Discharged — 34 mos' service."

## SUMMARY

Elbridge Gerry Chandler's life spanned from the timber and farm country of interior Maine to the butcher shops and fertile lands of Iowa—with a grueling detour through the Civil War's costliest cavalry regiment. Along the way, he married three times, buried two wives, and fathered nine children.

His early years in Maine were not without trouble, including a brush with the law in Gardiner in 1853 that was ultimately resolved without an indictment. But his true trial came years later, when he gave three years of grueling service to a Union cavalry unit that lost more men in action than any other. Though Elbridge survived the war, he did not escape it unscathed; a fall from his horse at Malvern Hill in July 1864 left him with chronic pain and illness that would plague him for the rest of his days.

Yet, he pressed on. Returning home to his second wife, Caroline, he built a life as an Iowa tradesman and farmer, working for decades even though his military pension file noted his physical capacity never exceeded a third of a healthy man's.

When Caroline died, Elbridge faced the crushing reality of being a widower left with eight children. The choices he made next point to practical necessity rather than estrangement: he kept his six eldest but was forced to find new homes for the two who were still small. Within weeks of their mother's death, his youngest children, Ella and Arthur, were placed with neighboring families. While Ella's placement became permanent, Arthur's did not. At eleven or twelve years old, the boy ran away from his adoptive home, only to be found and brought back to his father by his older sister, Clara.

Elbridge finally passed away at seventy-four in Pleasantville, Marion County, and was returned to Cambridge, Story County, to be laid to rest.

Reflecting on this paper trail, descendant and family genealogist Susan Silva notes: "I believe Elbridge's war injury affected the remainder of his life and I think it was a struggle for him. He had buried two wives and I believe he had difficulty supporting his family. He adopted out a younger daughter, as he wasn't able to care for her. His chronic ill health probably gave him a poor quality of life." While an interpretation rather than an absolute documented fact, it is a deeply reasonable reading of the evidence. Indeed, his own obituary described his passing as

"a happy release," suggesting that those who knew him best viewed his death as a merciful end to a long, hard-fought struggle.

## SOURCES

### Vital and Legal Records

Recognizance, Police Court of Gardiner — State of Maine v. Enoch G. Chandler; charge of obtaining goods by false pretenses from Daniel S. Johnson; Judge George W. Batchelder presiding; August 15, 1853.

Subpoena and Bill of Cost — State vs. E. G. Chandler, Supreme Judicial Court, Kennebec County, Maine, August Term, 1853; disposition "no bill."

Marriage Record — Mr. E. G. Chandler and Miss Sarah A. Odiorne, both of Gardiner, Maine; married November 27, 1854, by P. F. Bernard, Clergyman. Richmond, Maine, Town and Vital Records, 1823–1892; certified by Elias Colby, Town Clerk.

Intention of Marriage — Elbridge G. Chandler and Caroline S. Foote, both of Gardiner, Maine; filed May 7, 1858, City Clerk C. P. Branch, Gardiner city record, p. 115.

Civil War Enlistment Record — Elbridge G. Chandler, Company E, 1st Maine Cavalry; enlisted August 13, 1862, Dresden, Maine; discharged May 28–29, 1865, Petersburg, Virginia. U.S., Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles, 1861–1865.

Civil War Pension Index — Chandler, Elbridge G. (Invalid, filed July 28, 1865, Application No. 79959, Certificate No. 320395); Chandler, Medora E. (Widow, filed April 18, 1902, Application No. 761109). General Index to Pension Files, 1861–1934.

Genealogy of the Odiorne Family, by James Creighton Odiorne (Boston, 1875), p. 146 — entry for Sarah Ann Odiorne, daughter of Samuel John Odiorne.

Deed of Adoption — E. G. Chandler to Howard Haworth, of Ella Chandler (renamed Ella May Haworth); Ida County, Iowa, Book A, p. 190; executed January 13, 1880, filed January 14, 1880; certified copy issued July 24, 2007, by Colleen Gries, Ida County Recorder.

1880 U.S. Federal Census — Village of Battle Creek, Ida County, Iowa; enumerated June 28, 1880, by Christian P. Lound. Records Ella (Haworth) Chandler in the household of Howard Haworth and Arthur (Virgil) Chandler in the household of Charles H. Virgil, on consecutive pages of the same enumeration; Elbridge G. Chandler is separately recorded nearby in the same village.

Pension File Testimony — Elbridge G. Chandler, sworn statements dated April 10, 1883, and September 27, 1883, describing the circumstances of his injury at Malvern Hill, his hospitalization at City Point and Point Lookout, Maryland, and his subsequent chronic disability. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Civil War pension file.

Authenticated Record of Marriage — Elbridge G. Chandler and Medora Elizabeth Chandler; Story County, Iowa, Book A-4, p. A-5; married March 31, 1886, Nevada, Iowa; certified January 20, 1965, Millicent Fagerburgh, Clerk District Court.

Grand Army of the Republic Membership Record — Chandler, Elbridge G.; Department of Iowa; occupation Butcher, Cambridge, Iowa; birth 1827, Foxcroft, Maine; death October 10, 1901; War record, Co. E, 1 Maine Cav. (Record postdates October 1901, as it includes his date of death.)

FamilySearch profile — Elbridge Gerry Chandler; birth May 18, 1827, Dover-Foxcroft, Piscataquis County, Maine; death October 10, 1901, Pleasant Grove Township, Marion County, Iowa; burial October 16, 1901, Cambridge Cemetery, Cambridge, Story County, Iowa; alternate name Elbridge Gerrish Chandler.

## Newspaper Sources

Portland Press Herald (Portland, Maine) • May 12, 1857 (death notice, Sarah A. Chandler) • May 24, 1858 (marriage notice, Elbridge G. Chandler and Caroline S. Foote)

The Newell Mirror (Newell, Iowa) • January 8, 1880 (death notice, Caroline Chandler, near Battle Creek, Ida County)

The Battle Creek Times (Battle Creek, Iowa) • May 31, 1888 (notice, Charles H. Virgil disclaiming responsibility for his runaway adopted son, Arthur Virgil) • August 16, 1888 (item, Clara Chandler retrieving her brother Arthur Virgil from Battle Creek to return him to their father)

Omaha Daily Bee (Omaha, Nebraska) • September 22, 1888 (Iowa pension increases, Elbridge G. Chandler, Cambridge)

Maxwell Tribune (Maxwell, Iowa) • October 24, 1901 (obituary of Elbridge G. Chandler, written by his sister Sarah H. Chandler Miller, "Mrs. J. H. Miller" of Maxwell)

## Family and Genealogical Sources

Gravestone photograph, Sarah A. Chandler (inscribed 1857; photograph uploaded to Find A Grave, undated) — Find A Grave Memorial ID 186997601 (findagrave.com/memorial/186997601/sarah_a-chandler), citing Morgridge Family Cemetery, Litchfield, Kennebec County, Maine, USA (findagrave.com/cemetery/2659531/morgridge-family-cemetery). Inscription: "SARAH A. / WIFE OF / E. G. CHANDLER. / DIED / May 2, 1857. / AGED / 27 Yrs. 6 Mos.," with funerary verse. Establishes a death date of May 2, 1857, an age at death of twenty-seven years, six months, and a burial location, corroborating the birth year given in the Odiorne family genealogy and resolving in Sarah's favor the age discrepancy against the contemporary newspaper notice, which gave her age as twenty-three. Note: the gravestone's death date differs by three days from the date given in the newspaper notice and the Odiorne genealogy (May 5); this is noted as an unresolved discrepancy in the text.

Letter, Donna Dartt Botts to nephew Walter Briggs — 40 North Main St., Pennington, N.J.; February 20, 1960. Recalls that Ella's birth father "lived only three years or so after she was adopted" and that the elder Chandler children, Frank, Henry, and Clara, "made out by themselves" afterward. Note: this account conflicts with the documentary record, which shows Chandler remarrying in 1886 and dying in 1901, and is treated here as family recollection rather than established fact.

Letter, Mabel Dartt Casner to nephew Walt Briggs — 1960. General Dartt/Casner family correspondence; does not address the Chandler line directly.

Cavalry Uniform display card (family collection, undated) — handwritten note recording Elbridge G. Chandler's Company E, 1st Maine Cavalry service, enlistment at Dresden, Maine, August 13, 1862, and discharge at Petersburg, Virginia, May 28, 1865.

Genealogical compilation, Susan Silva (undated) — descent chart from Edmund Chandler (b. 1587, England) through Elbridge Gerry Chandler to the compiler's own generation; includes names and birth dates for children of all three of Elbridge's marriages, the 1901 Maxwell Tribune obituary text, and the compiler's own reflections on Elbridge's health and family circumstances. Note: this compilation gives a marriage date for Elbridge and Medora (February 3, 1886) and a marriage date for Elbridge and Caroline (May 7, 1858) that conflict with the certified Story County marriage record and the contemporary 1858 newspaper notice, respectively; the contemporary and certified records are treated as authoritative in each case, and the discrepancies are noted in the text.

Regimental history summary, 1st Regiment, Maine Cavalry (undated reference compilation) — "Union Maine Volunteers" compiled regimental history; organization at Augusta, November 1861; complete campaign and battle itinerary, 1862–1865; casualty summary. Used as the source for the Civil War Service narrative, cross-referenced against Chandler's own enlistment and discharge dates to identify the portion of the regiment's service that corresponds to his enlistment.

1st Maine Cavalry regimental association website (mainecav.org) and Point Lookout State Park and Civil War Museum reference material (undated) — used for general historical context on the regiment and on the Point Lookout, Maryland hospital and prison camp where Chandler was treated in 1864.

# CAROLINE "CARRIE" WOOKEY

*English Immigrant • Wife • Mother*

SOMERSET, ENGLAND • WISCONSIN • MINNESOTA

*Also known as: Caroline Dartt • Carrie Dartt • Mrs. E. H. S. Dartt*

## VITAL STATISTICS

| | |
|---|---|
| **BORN** | August 25, 1843, near Cameley / Clutton, Somerset, England |
| **DIED** | December 6, 1894, Rochester, Olmsted County, Minnesota (age 51) |
| **BURIED** | Forest Hill Cemetery, Owatonna, Minnesota |
| **FATHER** | John Wookey (1801 – 1883) |
| **MOTHER** | Caroline Clavey (1804 – 1847), John Wookey's second wife |
| **MARRIED** | November 24, 1876, Kingston, Marquette County, Wisconsin, to Edward Harvey Schuyler (E. H. S.) Dartt (1824 – 1903), his second marriage |
| **CHILDREN** | Rolland M. Dartt (1878 – 1906) |
| **SIBLINGS** | Full siblings (John Wookey & Caroline Clavey):<br>Adelaide Wookey (1844 – 1923)<br>Emily Wookey (1846 – deceased)<br><br>Paternal half-siblings (father's 1st marriage, to Mary Elizabeth Hand):<br>Maria Wookey (1827 – deceased)<br>Charlotte Wookey (1830 – 1905)<br>John Wookey Jr. (1832 – 1906)<br><br>Paternal half-siblings (father's 3rd marriage, to Hannah Hopkins):<br>George H. Wookey (1850 – 1859)<br>William E. Wookey (1854 – 1856)<br><br>Maternal half-siblings (mother's 1st marriage, to Henry Hippisley):<br>Mary Ann Clavey Hippisley (1827 – 1828)<br>Eliza Dudden Hippisley (1829 – 1889)<br>Ann Hippisley (1831 – deceased)<br>Henry Hippisley (1833 – deceased) |

| | |
|---|---|
| | Mary Hippisley (1833 – deceased) |

## FAMILY BACKGROUND

Caroline Wookey was born August 25, 1843, in the Somerset countryside southwest of Bristol, England. She was baptized there on September 7, 1843, the daughter of John Wookey, a farmer, and his wife Caroline (née Clavey).

John Wookey had married three times. His first wife, Mary Elizabeth Hand, was the mother of his eldest children, including Maria, Charlotte, and John Jr. His second wife — Caroline's mother, Caroline Clavey — married him in Chewton Mendip, Somerset, in October 1842; together they had at least three children: Caroline, Adelaide (1844 – 1923), and Emily (b. 1846). The elder Caroline Clavey Wookey died in 1847, when her daughter and namesake was not yet four years old. John Wookey remarried a third time in June 1849, in Clifton, Bristol, to Hannah Hopkins, with whom he had two more children, George H. Wookey (1850 – 1859) and William E. Wookey (1854 – 1856), both born after the family reached America and both dying in childhood.

> *Caroline Clavey herself had been married once before, to Henry Hippisley (1803 – 1833), with whom she had five children between 1826 and 1833 — Mary Ann Clavey, Eliza Dudden, Ann, Henry, and Mary Hippisley — before her 1842 marriage to John Wookey. The Wookey household Caroline grew up in was consequently a large, blended one, drawing together half-siblings from at least three of her father's marriages and from her mother's earlier marriage besides; by the time of her birth in 1843, some of these Hippisley half-siblings were already grown, while others, like Mary Ann, had died in infancy years before.*

The family's emigration to the United States followed close on the heels of John Wookey's third marriage. Passenger records for the ship Cosmo show John Wookey, age 48, arriving in New York on September 20, 1849, together with his new wife and children including Charlotte (19), John (17), Caroline (6), and Adelaide (4) — confirming both Caroline's age and the family's point of departure from England only months after her father's remarriage. She was six years old when she crossed the Atlantic.

> *Transatlantic emigration in the mid-nineteenth century was frequently tied to remarriage and reconstituted households, as it was here: a widower with children by more than one marriage, newly remarried, starting over in America rather than in a Somerset parish full of the complications of the old family arrangement.*

## WISCONSIN YEARS (1849–1876)

The Wookeys settled in Wisconsin, and the documentary trail places the family at a series of addresses across the southern part of the state through Caroline's childhood and young adulthood: Pleasant Prairie, Kenosha County, by 1850; Oakfield and the neighboring township of Manchester, in Fond du Lac and Green Lake counties, by 1860. Her obituary would later state simply that she had settled with her parents "in Kingston, Wisconsin," where she lived "continuously" until her marriage — Kingston, in Green Lake County, evidently became the family's longer-term home base even as the 1850 and 1860 census enumerations show them at nearby points across the county line.

By 1870, Caroline was twenty-six years old and living in her half-brother John Wookey Jr.'s household at Oakfield, Fond du Lac County, where the census recorded her occupation as domestic servant. It is a detail that speaks to the ordinary economics of an unmarried woman in her mid-twenties in a farming community — contributing labor to a sibling's household rather than maintaining one of her own — and it is nearly the last documentary trace of Caroline Wookey before her marriage six years later, at the comparatively late age (for the period) of thirty-three.

> *For unmarried women in nineteenth-century farm communities, domestic service within a relative's household was a common and respectable arrangement — distinct from working as a servant for strangers, and often simply the practical result of an unmarried adult woman's labor being needed somewhere in the extended family.*

## MARRIAGE AND THE OWATONNA YEARS (1876–1894)

Caroline Wookey married Edward Harvey Schuyler (E. H. S.) Dartt on November 24, 1876, in Kingston, Wisconsin — her own longtime home rather than his. Dartt, a nurseryman and orchardist twenty years her senior, had been widowed the previous January when his first wife, Lucretia Brooks Dartt, died at Owatonna, Minnesota, leaving him with five surviving children. He had travelled to Kingston to court and marry Caroline, bringing along his youngest child, a boy of about four named Justus Josiah. The wedding trip ended in tragedy: the boy was taken suddenly ill and died while the couple was in Wisconsin, and Dartt returned home to Owatonna with both his bride and his son's coffin. A local paper called it "a sorrowful bereavement that dispelled the pleasures of the honeymoon." Caroline Dartt thus began her married life carrying the weight of a household still in mourning for both a wife and a child.

> *The pairing of a wedding journey with a child's funeral is an unusually stark example of the way sudden childhood illness could overtake even carefully planned family events in this period, when a healthy four-year-old could sicken and die within the span of a single trip.*

The couple settled at Owatonna, Steele County, Minnesota, where Dartt maintained his nursery business, and it was there that their only child together, Rolland M. Dartt, was born in 1878. Caroline also became stepmother to Edward's surviving children from his first marriage, among them Dr. Walter Scott Dartt and Harvey Schuyler Dartt Jr.; one stepdaughter, Nettie M. Dartt, died in 1883 at the age of twenty-two, another loss for a household that had already known more than its share.

The Owatonna newspapers of the 1880s and 1890s give a warm, if incidental, picture of Caroline's social life as Mrs. E. H. S. Dartt. In December 1891, The People's Press reported her as secretary of a small gathering of "flower lovers" meeting at Knights of Honor Hall to organize a horticultural society, with her husband chosen chairman — evidence of a shared enthusiasm for gardening that dovetailed naturally with Edward's nursery trade. A visit from her sister, Mrs. Frank H. Miner (Adelaide Wookey) of Janesville, Minnesota, was noted in May 1890. And in February 1894 — within the year of her death — the paper described a party of some forty guests at the Dartt home, remarking that "Mr. and Mrs. Dartt know how to make their many friends entirely at home and already are among our most popular entertainers."

> *These small social notices are the fullest surviving record of Caroline as an adult in her own right — not simply as Edward Dartt's wife, but as an organizer, hostess, and sister with a social circle of her own extending well beyond the household.*

## ILLNESS AND DEATH (1891–1894)

Caroline Dartt's health began to fail in the early 1890s. Her obituary describes her as having suffered from poor health for a number of years, with treatment sought in Minneapolis about two years before her death, but without lasting relief. In the early summer of 1894 her condition worsened considerably, and from August she was under care at an institution in Rochester, Minnesota — almost certainly a reference to the Rochester State Hospital in Rochester. The obituary states that her disease "seemed obscure" and that it "seriously clouded her mind," though she continued to recognize her family and friends until the end.

She died at Rochester on Thursday, December 6, 1894, at the age of fifty-one. The Olmsted County death register records her simply as "Carrie Dartt," gives her birthplace as England,

and lists a cause of death connected to a nervous or mental condition, consistent with the obituary's description of a mind grown "obscure" in her final months. Her remains were brought home to Owatonna for burial.

> *The precise nature of Caroline's final illness is not fully recoverable from the surviving sources. The obituary's description — an obscure disease that clouded the mind while sparing recognition of loved ones — is consistent with a range of possible late-nineteenth-century diagnoses, from a progressive neurological condition to a psychiatric one; the terminology of the period does not allow a confident modern diagnosis.*

Her funeral was held at the Dartt home in Owatonna on a Saturday afternoon in mid-December 1894. She had joined the Baptist church there by letter from her former church home soon after her marriage and was remembered as "a faithful, conscientious and devout Christian." She was interred at Forest Hill Cemetery — the same cemetery, and by family tradition the same plot area, where Edward's first wife Lucretia had been buried eighteen years earlier.

## SUMMARY

Caroline Wookey's life traced a single long westward arc: born in Somerset, England, in 1843, to a large blended family already reshaped twice over by her father's remarriages, she crossed the Atlantic at six years old within months of his third marriage, grew up amid the farm townships of southern Wisconsin, and worked as a domestic servant in her brother's household into her mid-twenties before marrying, at thirty-three, a widowed Minnesota nurseryman twenty years her senior. Her wedding journey back to her own Wisconsin home ended, almost immediately, with a child's funeral — a stark beginning to eighteen years as Mrs. E. H. S. Dartt of Owatonna.

Those eighteen years, as the newspaper record shows them, were not solely defined by the losses that bookended them. She raised a son, took in a household of stepchildren, organized a horticultural society with her husband, and was remembered by her neighbors as one of the town's more popular hostesses. She died in December 1894, not yet fifty-two, after a final illness that clouded her mind but not, by her family's account, her recognition of the people she loved. She was buried at Forest Hill Cemetery, in the town that had been her home for the whole of her married life, not the county of her English birth or the Wisconsin county where she had spent her first twenty-seven years in America.

Her connection to the broader network this research traces runs through her marriage into the Dartt family and through the Wookey family of Somerset and southern Wisconsin — the immigrant experience and blended-family structure of her early life offering a useful counterpoint to the American-born, single-family narratives found elsewhere in this project.

## SOURCES

### Vital and Legal Records

Marriage record — Henry Hippisley and Caroline Clavey; November 25, 1826; Chewton Mendip, Somerset, England (FamilySearch family group record). Establishes Caroline Clavey's first marriage and the birth of her five Hippisley children prior to her 1842 marriage to John Wookey.

Marriage record — John Wookey and Caroline Clavey; October 27, 1842; Chewton Mendip, Somerset, England (FamilySearch family group record).

Baptismal Register, Parish of Cameley, Somerset — Church of England Baptisms, 1813–1924; entry no. 521; Caroline, daughter of John and Caroline Wookey; baptized September 7, 1843; father's occupation given as farmer. Note: this record, together with the 1849 passenger list below and the age recorded at death (51), supports a birth year of 1843 — conflicting with the 1842 birth year inscribed on her gravestone (see Family and Genealogical Sources).

Marriage record — John Wookey and Hannah Hopkins; June 8, 1849; Clifton, Bristol, England (FamilySearch family group record).

New York, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820–1957 — ship Cosmo; arrived New York September 20, 1849; John Wookey (48, farmer), wife, and children including Charlotte (19), John (17), Caroline (6), and Adelaide (4).

U.S. Federal Census records — 1850 (Pleasant Prairie, Kenosha County, Wisconsin); 1860 (Oakfield, Fond du Lac County, and Manchester, Green Lake County, Wisconsin); 1870 (Oakfield, Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin — Caroline Wookey listed as domestic servant in the household of John Wookey Jr.).

Register of Deaths in the City of Rochester (Olmsted County, Minnesota Death Records, 1871–1910) — entry no. 140; "Carrie Dartt"; female, white; age 51; died December 6, 1894; birthplace England; cause of death connected to a nervous/mental condition (handwriting not fully legible).

### Newspaper Sources

Owatonna Journal (Owatonna, Minnesota) • Dec. 14, 1876 (report of the Kingston, Wisconsin wedding trip and the death of Dartt's young son Justus Josiah en route).

The People's Press (Owatonna, Minnesota) • May 30, 1890 (visit of Mrs. Frank H. Miner of Janesville) • Dec. 25, 1891 (flower lovers' organizational meeting) • Feb. 16, 1894 (social party at the Dartt home) • Dec. 14, 1894 ("Death of Mrs. Dartt," obituary).

### Family and Genealogical Sources

Gravestone photograph — Caroline Wookey, Forest Hill Cemetery, Owatonna, Minnesota; "Caroline Wookey, Wife of E. H. S. Dartt, Aug. 25, 1842 – Dec. 6, 1894."

FamilySearch family group records — John Wookey (KCYX-DBH) and family, including spouses Mary Elizabeth Hand, Caroline Clavey (HHFZ-LKG), and Hannah Hopkins, and children George H. Wookey and William E. Wookey; Caroline Clavey's first family with Henry Hippisley (spouse ID P32S-HPQ), including children Mary Ann Clavey, Eliza Dudden, Ann, Henry, and Mary Hippisley; Caroline Wookey (KV4T-SP5) and her marriage to Edward Harvey Schuyler Dartt (LSF3-P5G); accessed 2026.

Edward Harvey Schuyler Dartt biography— companion document providing additional detail on the Dartt household, the 1876 remarriage, and the deaths of Lucretia Brooks Dartt, Justus Josiah Dartt, and Nettie M. Dartt.

# ALEXANDER HAMILTON BRIGGS

*Constable* • *Justice of the Peace*

LIVONIA, MICHIGAN • EATON COUNTY • BATTLE CREEK, CALHOUN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

*Also known as: A. H. Briggs* • *Justice Briggs* • *Alexander H. Briggs*

## VITAL STATISTICS

| | |
|---|---|
| **BORN** | December 11, 1832, Livonia, Wayne County, Michigan |
| **DIED** | July 18, 1894, Battle Creek, Calhoun County, Michigan (age 61) |
| **BURIAL** | Redford, Wayne County, Michigan |
| **FATHER** | John Pardon Briggs (1806–1882) |
| **MOTHER** | Louisa Arnold (1810–1873) |
| **FIRST MARRIAGE** | September 15, 1853, Livonia, Wayne County, Michigan, to Rachel J. Lambert (1831–1886) |
| **SECOND MARRIAGE** | August 8, 1887, Battle Creek, Calhoun County, Michigan, to Sophia J. Brady (Shultz) (1859–after 1895) |
| **CHILDREN** | William Archer Briggs (1854–1911)<br>Hannah L. Briggs (1858–1942)<br>Llewellyn D. Briggs (1871–after 1930) |
| **SIBLINGS** | Sally L. Briggs (1830–1876)<br>John Pardon Briggs (1837–1906)<br>Elias Howell Briggs (1840–1900)<br>Dexter J. Briggs (1844–1918)<br>Archer Briggs (1847–1860) |

## FAMILY BACKGROUND

Alexander Hamilton Briggs was born on December 11, 1832, in Livonia, Wayne County, Michigan — part of the second generation of a family that had migrated from western New York in the early years of American settlement in the territory. His parents, John Pardon Briggs and Louisa Arnold, had married in 1829 in Royalton, Niagara County, New York, before

moving to Michigan with the wave of settlers who were opening the country south and west of Detroit in the 1830s.

He grew up the second of six children in a farming family in the township of Livonia. His brothers Elias, Dexter, Archer, and John Pardon (Jr.) and his sister Sally all appear in the FamilySearch record; several of the brothers are known to have remained in the Plymouth and Plymouth / Redford area into adulthood. This Wayne County network remained a point of connection throughout Alexander's life — when his father died in August 1882, Alexander travelled from Battle Creek to Plymouth to attend to the estate, and when his stepmother died in March 1883, a letter informing him of the event was forwarded to his Battle Creek office.

> *Livonia and Plymouth townships in Wayne County, Michigan, were settled heavily from western New York and New England in the 1820s–1840s. The Briggs family likely arrived as part of that migration.*

On September 15, 1853, at the house of Solomon Lambert in Livonia, Alexander Hamilton Briggs (21) was married to Rachel J. Lambert (21).

## MICHIGAN: FARMING AND EARLY LIFE (1853–1872)

Following his marriage, Alexander and Rachel settled in Livonia township, where the 1860 census places them. By the time the Civil War draft registration was taken in 1863, he was a farmer in his early thirties, already with two children. The draft registration lists him among the Class 1 registrants of Wayne County — married, occupation farmer, born Michigan.

Around 1870 the family had moved east to Walton Township, Eaton County. Within two years, however, he had made the more consequential move south and west to Battle Creek, arriving in the spring of 1872. His obituary, published July 18, 1894, is explicit on this point: he came to Battle Creek in the spring of 1872 and made his home in the city from that date forward.

> *Battle Creek, in Calhoun County, was one of the fastest-growing cities in southern Michigan in the 1870s. Its location on the Kalamazoo River and its rail connections made it a regional center for commerce, manufacturing, and agricultural trade. The 1870s saw significant population growth, and men of public ambition, including Alexander, found it a more promising path than the farming townships they had come from.*

## BATTLE CREEK: CONSTABLE OF THE THIRD WARD (C. 1874–1876)

Alexander Briggs's first step into Battle Creek's public life came through the office of ward constable — a position that combined the functions of law enforcement and process service at the neighborhood level. The Detroit Free Press for April 4, 1874, records that the Republican party had nominated him as constable for the Third Ward. Whether he was elected that cycle is not confirmed, but by 1876 he was clearly serving in the constable role, as the newspaper record for that year places him in the Fourth Ward constable's office.

His tenure as constable produced its most memorable documented episode in late July 1876. Briggs had travelled to the Marshall area to arrest one Henry Williamson (named in one account as Benjamin Williamson), charged with larceny — the theft from a local farmer of two pigs, a hog, three sheep, and a carriage top. On the return journey, having declined to handcuff the prisoner because Williamson had begged and cried so hard against it, Briggs found himself assaulted. Williamson seized him, pitched him bodily out of the buggy, grabbed the reins, and drove away with the horse and carriage, leaving the constable lying in the road near what was known as "the gulf."

A farmer named David Mayo found Briggs and brought medical assistance; Dr. Tomilson attended. The Kalamazoo Gazette, reporting the story under the headline "A Constable Bamboozled," provided the fuller account: Briggs had his left shoulder blade broken and his right shoulder dislocated. He was badly injured but was able to walk to Mayo's house. The prisoner, meanwhile, had an all-night head start. He was recaptured Saturday evening south of Coldwater by Deputy Sheriff Barber of Battle Creek and Deputy Sheriff Waldo of Takonsha, who overtook him with outfit upon the road; when he jumped from the buggy and ran for a cornfield, Waldo shot him twice before he was brought back and lodged in the county jail at Marshall. Four Michigan papers covered the chase and capture.

> *The 1876 episode is one of the most fully documented incidents in Alexander's career and is notable for the number of newspapers that picked it up — the Jackson Citizen Patriot, the Kalamazoo Gazette, the Detroit Free Press, and the Lansing State Journal all ran accounts. The constable's decision not to handcuff the prisoner, made in a moment of misplaced sympathy, became the pivot of the story in several versions. The headline 'A Constable Bamboozled' in the Gazette is the most colorful rendering.*

## BATTLE CREEK: JUSTICE OF THE PEACE (C. 1876–1894)

Sometime around 1876, Briggs transitioned from the constable's role to the office of Justice of the Peace — the position he would hold for the remainder of his life. By the time of his death in 1894, his obituary could record that he had served as constable for several years and had been "subsequently elected justice of the peace, which office he was holding on his fourth term at the time of his death." The Detroit Free Press's death notice described him as having been "the leading justice of the peace at Battle Creek" for fifteen years, while the Kalamazoo Gazette gave the span as twenty years.

The justice's court was a busy one. The Battle Creek newspaper record from 1876 to 1894 is a continuous chronicle of cases brought before him: vagrancy, assault, larceny, bigamy, domestic violence, and coroner's inquests. A selection gives a sense of the range. In May 1881, A. J. Moore, arrested on a charge of bigamy, was taken before Justice Briggs, who heard that the defendant had a first wife and children in Lenawee County, a second wife he had lived with briefly in Battle Creek, and a third whom he had just married, representing himself as a widower; the case was held to the next circuit court term on a bond of $1,000. In June 1882, Eugene Webster was arraigned before Justice Briggs; the Justice telegraphed the jailor at Marshall not to release him on bond given the victim's critical condition. In April 1883, the coroner's inquest into a fatal train collision on the Chicago and Grand Trunk railway near Olivet was conducted before A. H. Briggs in Battle Creek.

He also performed wedding ceremonies as a justice, as the Battle Creek Tribune's social notes occasionally record. In July 1882, he united Fred A. Stewart and Miss Alice Pond at his residence; in February 1884, he performed the marriage of David M. Hueston and Mrs. Sarah Cashmere, both of Johnstown, both apparently over fifty.

His office on West Main Street — described in the 1893 Battle Creek City Directory as "justice of the peace, 4 W. Main, res. 10 Brook" — served simultaneously as a venue for Republican ward caucuses. He was a consistent Republican delegate and committeeman throughout the 1880s and early 1890s, appearing in the county convention lists for 1882, 1884, 1888, 1890, 1891, 1892, and 1893. In November 1884, his son William A. (W. A.) Briggs — of Stanton, identified in the papers as "son of Justice Briggs of this city" — was elected circuit court commissioner of Montcalm County, an occasion that the Battle Creek papers noted with evident family pride.

> *A Justice of the Peace in late nineteenth-century Michigan was a local judicial officer elected by ward or township. Justices handled minor civil disputes up to a certain dollar threshold, preliminary criminal examinations, small estates, and coroner's inquests in the absence of a dedicated coroner. They also had authority to solemnize marriages and administer oaths. The office was elected, term-limited, and could be held consecutively — Alexander was on his fourth term when he died.*

The household at 10 Brook Street (later noted as 3 and then 1 Brook Street in different years, reflecting address renumbering) appears regularly in the social notes of Battle Creek and Jackson papers through the 1880s. His daughter — identified as Mrs. E. J. Hills (Hannah) — is the most frequently mentioned visitor; she and her husband lived in Jackson, and they appear to have spent regular time at the Briggs home. In August 1882, Briggs was called to Plymouth by the death of his father, John Pardon Briggs. In November 1882, he posted a $50 reward notice for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person who had girdled his shade trees on a Monday night — a small but distinctly human detail that says something about his attachment to his property.

In August 1884, Justice Briggs was himself the victim of a crime, losing a pocket book containing about $150 in notes and $13 in cash to pickpockets at a public event in the park. He was one of several prominent citizens victimized on the same afternoon.

## MARRIAGES AND FAMILY

Rachel J. Lambert Briggs, Alexander's wife of thirty-two years, died on July 26, 1886. The circumstances of her death are not recorded in the surviving newspaper sources, but the February 1886 note that Mrs. E. J. Hills (Hannah) had come to Battle Creek to be at her mother's bedside — her mother being "very seriously ill" — suggests Rachel's final illness was of some duration. Alexander was a widower for just over a year.

On August 8, 1887, he married Mrs. Sophia J. Brady Shultz of Battle Creek at a ceremony the marriage register describes as performed in Calhoun County. The Calhoun County marriage return preserved in the state archives records this second union, noting Sophia's surname from her previous marriage. Sophia was born in 1859, making her roughly twenty-seven years his junior. She survived him at the time of his death in 1894; his obituary names her as his surviving wife, giving her full maiden name as "Mrs. Sophia J. Shultz." She died sometime after 1895.

The three children named in Alexander's obituary were all from his first marriage to Rachel Lambert. The eldest, William Archer Briggs (1854–1911), appeared frequently in the local social notes and had established himself by 1884 in Stanton, Montcalm County, where he served as a circuit court commissioner. His sister, Hannah L. Briggs (1858–1942), is identified in FamilySearch records, while their brother, Llewellyn D. Briggs (1871–after 1930), is also identified in the FamilySearch records.

## CIVIC AND FRATERNAL LIFE

Beyond the courthouse, Briggs was a committed Republican ward-level organizer and a member of Battle Creek's fraternal community. His office served as the venue for the Third and Fifth Ward Republican caucuses in multiple years; he chaired ward caucuses and appeared as a delegate or committeeman at Calhoun County Republican conventions in 1884, 1888, 1890, 1891, 1892, and 1893.

He was a member of Battle Creek Chapter No. 19, R. A. M. (Royal Arch Masons), in which he held the office of Guide, Master of the 3rd Veil, at the December 1884 officer installation. The Battle Creek Commandery, Knights Templar — of which he was an honored member, according to his obituary — conducted his funeral. His Masonic connections were noted in multiple death notices, with the Kalamazoo Gazette and Detroit Free Press each identifying him as "a well-known Mason," and the Detroit Free Press specifying that he was "a prominent Knight Templar."

> *The Knights Templar was the chivalric order of Freemasonry, open only to Royal Arch Masons who professed the Christian faith. Its membership in late nineteenth-century Michigan carried social prestige, and the order's ceremonial participation in funeral rites was a standard honor for members of standing.*

## DEATH: 18 JULY 1894

Alexander Hamilton Briggs died at his residence on July 18, 1894, cancer of the stomach. He was sixty-one years, seven months, and seven days old. He had been "the leading justice of the peace at Battle Creek" — as the Detroit Free Press described him — for fifteen years.

His death did not pass unnoticed. The St. Joseph Daily Press ran a wire item under the headline "A. H. BRIGGS DEAD — Been a Prominent Citizen of Battle Creek for Many Years." The Kalamazoo Gazette noted him as having been justice of the peace for twenty years and "a

well-known Mason." The Detroit Free Press gave the fullest account, describing him as "a prominent Knight Templar" and a native of Livonia township who would be buried at Redford, Wayne County — a return to the ancestral landscape of his family's first Michigan settlement.

## SUMMARY

Alexander Hamilton Briggs arrived in Battle Creek in the spring of 1872 with a farming background, a Michigan-born pedigree, and the civic instincts of a man who wanted to be useful in a growing city. He became constable of the Third Ward, held that post for several years, was thrown out of a buggy by an escaping prisoner in 1876, and survived to run for and win the office of Justice of the Peace — which he held for the rest of his life, through four elected terms.

As a justice, he was exactly the kind of man small nineteenth-century American cities depended on: present, reliable, accessible, political enough to serve as a Republican caucus chairman and convention delegate, civic enough to sit on coroner's juries, practical enough to advertise his special attention to collecting debts. He married twice, buried his first wife in 1886, took a second wife thirty years his junior the following year, and died in 1894 of stomach cancer at sixty-one.

The Masonic order buried him with honors and the papers across southern Michigan noted his passing. A Mason who had come to attend him at his deathbed dropped dead in the room shortly after. His son held office in Montcalm County. His remains went back to Redford, in the county where the family had put down its Michigan roots.

## SOURCES

### Vital and Legal Records

Calhoun County Return of Deaths, 1894 — Register entry No. 114; Alexander H. Briggs; died 18 July 1894; Battle Creek; age 61 years 7 months 7 days; cause: Cancer of Stomach; birthplace: Michigan.

Calhoun County Marriage Return, 1887 — Marriage of Alexander H. Briggs and Sophia J. Shultz Brady; 8 August 1887; Battle Creek, Calhoun County, Michigan.

Wayne County Marriage Record — Marriage of Alexander H. Briggs and Rachel J. Lambert; 15 September 1853 (date as recorded in state record); Livonia, Wayne County, Michigan; performed by William McNitt, Justice of the Peace; witnesses James Miller and Miss Rachel Lambert.

U.S. Civil War Draft Registration, 1863 — Alexander H. Briggs; Class 1; Wayne County, Michigan; occupation: Farmer; married; birthplace: Michigan.

FamilySearch Person Profile — Alexander Hamilton Briggs, L442-34G; accessed June 2026. Aggregates 13 sources for vitals; parents, siblings, and children confirmed from census and vital records.

1850 U.S. Census — Livonia, Wayne County, Michigan (residence confirmed by FamilySearch).

1860 U.S. Census — Livonia, Wayne County, Michigan.

1870 U.S. Census — Walton Township, Eaton County, Michigan.

1893 Battle Creek City Directory — Briggs, Alexander H., Justice of the Peace, 4 W. Main; res. 10 Brook.

## Newspaper Sources

Detroit Free Press (Detroit, Michigan) • 4 Apr. 1874 (Republican nomination, constable, Third Ward Battle Creek) • 1 Aug. 1876 (arrest of Williamson south of Coldwater) • 12 Aug. 1882 (Briggs called to Plymouth by death of his father) • 3 Aug. 1888 (Calhoun County Republican Convention delegates) • 31 Aug. 1890 (Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Briggs visiting Detroit relatives) • 20 Dec. 1891 (Dexter J. Briggs visits brother A. H. Briggs) • 20 Jul. 1894 (death notice; fifteen years leading justice; Knight Templar; native of Livonia)

Jackson Citizen Patriot (Jackson, Michigan) • 29 Jul. 1876 (A Desperate Thief; Briggs thrown from buggy) • 31 Jul. 1876 (Recaptured; Williamson caught south of Coldwater) • 26 Feb. 1886 (Mrs. E. J. Hills at bedside of seriously ill mother) • 10 May 1886 (Justice Briggs visiting daughter Mrs. E. J. Hills in Jackson) • 18 Oct. 1886 (Mrs. E. J. Hills and son visiting father A. H. Briggs) • 5 Aug. 1891 (E. J. Hills taking treatment at Battle Creek Sanitarium, guest of father-in-law Justice Briggs) • 12 Aug. 1891 (Archer Briggs of Stanton, and Justice A. H. Briggs and wife, entertained by Mrs. E. J. Hills) • 27 Dec. 1888 (Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Hills spent Christmas with Justice A. H. Briggs)

The Kalamazoo Gazette (Kalamazoo, Michigan) • 30 Jul. 1876 (A Constable Bamboozled; left shoulder broken, right shoulder dislocated) • 13 May 1881 (bigamy case, A. J. Moore before Justice Briggs) • 14 Aug. 1885 (Joseph Moss case before Justice Briggs) • 24 Aug. 1887 (George Sager and Emma Garfield married by Justice Briggs at his Brook Street residence) • 20 Jul. 1894 (death notice; twenty years justice of the peace; well-known Mason)

Battle Creek Tribune (Battle Creek, Michigan) • 24 Jun. 1882 (business directory, Justice of the Peace, office over E. L. Jones & Co.) • 29 Jul. 1882 (marriage performed by Justice A. H. Briggs, Stewart and Pond) • 12 Aug. 1882 (Briggs called to Plymouth by death of his father) • 2 Sep. 1882 (Fifth Ward Republican caucus at office of A. H. Briggs) • 23 Sep. 1882 (business directory) • 24 Nov. 1882 ($50 reward notice for girdling of shade trees)

Battle Creek Republican (Battle Creek, Michigan) • 24 Nov. 1882 ($50 reward notice) • 8 Apr. 1884 (election results; A. H. Briggs elected Justice with 463 majority)

The Citizen (Battle Creek, Michigan) • 10 Mar. 1883 (letter informing Briggs of stepmother's death at Plymouth) • 14 Apr. 1883 (coroner's jury in suicide case convened at Justice Briggs's office) • 26 Jan. 1884 (Morton theft case; George Morton fined $25 and costs before Justice Briggs) • 2 Feb. 1884 (marriage of Hueston and Cashmere performed by Justice Briggs) • 5 Apr. 1884 (Republican nominations; Justice, A. H. Briggs) • 12 Apr. 1884 (full vote tally, Republican victory; A. H. Briggs 463 majority) • 31 May 1884 (domestic violence case; William Henry Martin sentenced by Justice Briggs) • 28 Jun. 1884 (coroner's inquest, E. C. Knight accidental death; Justice Briggs presiding)

Battle Creek Weekly Moon (Battle Creek, Michigan) • 9 Aug. 1884 (pickpockets in the park; Justice A. H. Briggs among victims, pocket book with $150 in notes and $13 cash stolen)

The Sunday Morning Call (Battle Creek, Michigan) • 7 Sep. 1884 (marriage of daughter Anna L. Briggs to E. J. Hill at residence of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Briggs, 1 Brook Street; Rev. Reed Stuart officiated) • 16 Nov. 1884 (W. A. Briggs of

Stanton, son of Justice Briggs, elected circuit court commissioner of Montcalm County) • 28 Dec. 1884 (lodge officer list, Battle Creek Chapter No. 19 R.A.M.; A. H. Briggs as Guide, G. M. 3 V.) • 23 Aug. 1885 (Mrs. D. J. Hills and son guests of parents Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Briggs) • 4 Apr. 1886 (Third Ward Republican caucus at Briggs's office; Briggs elected chairman)

The Marshall Statesman (Marshall, Michigan) • 10 Jan. 1890 (Justice A. H. Briggs in Athens on business) • 5 Sep. 1890 (Republican Senatorial Committee notice; A. H. Briggs listed) • 19 Sep. 1890 (Republican County Nominating Convention delegate list, 3rd Ward Battle Creek) • 17 Feb. 1893 (Republican County Convention; A. H. Briggs, Second District delegate)

Marshall Evening Chronicle (Marshall, Michigan) • 19 Feb. 1891 (Republican County Convention; A. H. Briggs, Second District delegate)

Grand Rapids Eagle (Grand Rapids, Michigan) • 30 Apr. 1883 (investigation of fatal Chicago & Grand Trunk railway collision near Olivet conducted before A. H. Briggs in Battle Creek)

Grand Rapids Herald (Grand Rapids, Michigan) • 30 Mar. 1892 (Nominations by Battle Creek Republicans; Alexander H. Briggs for Justice of the Peace)

The Homer Index (Homer, Michigan) • 8 Aug. 1888 (Republican County Convention; Alexander H. Briggs, Second District senatorial delegate) • 22 Feb. 1893 (Republican County Convention delegate list)

The Saginaw Courier-Herald (Saginaw, Michigan) • 31 Mar. 1892 (nominations in Michigan towns; Battle Creek, Alexander H. Briggs for Justice of the Peace)

Detroit Free Press (Detroit, Michigan) • 8 Apr. 1884 (Battle Creek Goes Republican; A. H. Briggs elected Justice)

The Lansing Journal (Lansing, Michigan) • 4 Aug. 1876 (Williamson arrested; shot twice before capture) • 27 Jul. 1894 (W. S. Woodhead, nursing Justice Briggs, drops dead at his bedside)

Lansing State Journal (Lansing, Michigan) • 4 Aug. 1876 (Williamson arrested south of Coldwater)

Berrien Springs Era (Berrien Springs, Michigan) • 25 Jul. 1894 (death notice)

St. Joseph Daily Press (St. Joseph, Michigan) • 19 Jul. 1894 (A. H. BRIGGS DEAD; prominent citizen of Battle Creek; justice of the peace; known mason)

## Family and Genealogical Sources

FamilySearch Person Profile — Alexander Hamilton Briggs, L442-34G. Aggregates birth, census, marriage, and death sources; provides parents, siblings (6 identified), spouses (Rachel J. Lambert and Sophia J. Brady), and children (3). Accessed June 2026.

FamilySearch Person Profile — Rachel J. Lambert, LCZL-7MC. Birth 1831; death 26 July 1886. First wife of Alexander H. Briggs. Accessed June 2026.

FamilySearch Person Profile — Sophia J. Brady, KKP8-1J7. Birth 1859; death 1895. Second wife of Alexander H. Briggs. Accessed June 2026.

FamilySearch Person Profile — John Pardon Briggs (father), 29WD-Y88; 1806–1882. Accessed June 2026.

FamilySearch Person Profile — William Archer Briggs (son), KV2T-D2N; 1854–1911. Accessed June 2026.

# RACHEL J. LAMBERT

*Michigan Pioneer • Wife • Mother*

NEW YORK • MICHIGAN

*Also known as: Rachel Lambert • Mrs. Alexander H. Briggs • Mrs. A. H. Briggs • Rachel J. Briggs*

## VITAL STATISTICS

| | |
|---|---|
| **BORN** | April 12, 1831, Wayne County, New York |
| **DIED** | July 26, 1886, Battle Creek, Calhoun County, Michigan (age 55) |
| **BURIED** | Bell Branch Cemetery, Redford, Wayne County, Michigan |
| **FATHER** | Solomon Lambert (1792 - 1882) |
| **MOTHER** | Hannah Patten Grace (1791 - 1869) |
| **MARRIED** | September 15, 1853, Livonia, Wayne County, Michigan, to Alexander Hamilton Briggs (1832–1894) |
| **CHILDREN** | William Archer Briggs (1854–1911)<br>Hannah L. Briggs (1858–1942)<br>Llewellyn D. Briggs (1871– after 1930) |
| **SIBLINGS** | William Lambert (1819–1903)<br>Mary Grace Lambert (1822–1902)<br>Abigail Lambert (1828–1924)<br>Joshua Lambert (1834–1902) |

## FAMILY BACKGROUND

Rachel J. Lambert was born on April 12, 1831, in Wayne County, New York, the fourth of five children of Solomon Lambert and Hannah Patten Grace. The Lamberts were a Maine family of New England Protestant stock. Solomon and Hannah had married in Canaan, Somerset County, Maine, in August 1817, before making their way west into the frontier communities of New York State where their children were born. By the time Rachel was a young woman, the family had moved again, west into Michigan, where they settled in Livonia Township, Wayne County.

Solomon Lambert lived an exceptionally long life, dying in April 1882 at approximately ninety years of age. The Battle Creek paper noted his death with the brevity reserved for the aged, identifying him as "father of Mrs. A. H. Briggs" and recording that his body was taken to Livonia for burial — the community where Rachel and her husband had put down their first roots together. Rachel's mother Hannah had predeceased him by more than a decade, dying in 1869. Her siblings were long-lived: her sister Abigail lived to 1924, her brother William to 1903, her brother Joshua to 1902.

> *The Lambert family's migration pattern — Maine to New York to Michigan — was characteristic of New England Protestant families in the first half of the nineteenth century, moving steadily westward along the northern frontier corridor. Wayne County, Michigan, which included the farming township of Livonia, was a destination for many such families during this period.*

## LIVONIA AND EARLY MARRIED LIFE (1853–C.1865)

On September 15, 1853, at the house of her father Solomon Lambert in Livonia Township, Rachel Lambert, aged twenty-one, married Alexander Hamilton Briggs, also twenty-one and a Livonia native. The ceremony was officiated by William A. Smith, Justice of the Peace, with James Wilber and Miss Abigail Lambert — Rachel's sister — present as witnesses.

The early years of the marriage kept them in Livonia's farming world. Within a year, their eldest child William Archer was born (1854), and four years later Hannah L. arrived (1858). Alexander's obituary later recounted the geography of those years: after the marriage the couple removed to Gratiot County for about a year, then returned to Livonia Township, where they resided for about twelve years. The mid-1850s to mid-1860s were therefore Rachel's years of settlement in the community where her father lived, her sister had witnessed her wedding, and her children were young.

> *Livonia Township in the 1850s was still actively developing agricultural land. Wayne County's proximity to Detroit gave its farmers market access, and the community's Methodist and other Protestant congregations provided the social framework within which families like the Lamberts and Briggs moved. Rachel spent the first decade of her married life in the township where she had grown up.*

## WALTON TOWNSHIP, EATON COUNTY (C.1865–1871)

Around the mid-1860s, Rachel and Alexander made a second move — this time to Walton Township in Eaton County, where they stayed approximately five years. The move to Eaton County placed them further from Rachel's father in Livonia but within the broader pattern of westward and outward movement that characterized Michigan farming families in this era. Nothing in the surviving sources records the specifics of their Eaton County years from Rachel's point of view. What is clear is that by 1871, the family was on the move again.

## BATTLE CREEK YEARS (1871–1886)

In the spring of 1871, Alexander and Rachel Briggs arrived in Battle Creek, Calhoun County, and made it their permanent home. The household continued to grow: their youngest child, Llewellyn D. Briggs, was born in July of that year. He would be the last of their three children and arrived thirteen years after their second child Hannah.

Battle Creek in 1871 was a growing city with a population of roughly 5,800— railroad connected, commercially active, and already acquiring the civic institutions that would define it in the following decades. For Rachel, now in her early forties, it was the last of her moves and the community in which her children would marry and establish themselves.

The Battle Creek years are the period for which the newspaper record is richest, though it names Rachel almost entirely through her husband and children. The Battle Creek papers tracked the comings and goings of the Briggs household with the warmth of a community that knew Alexander as a familiar figure — first as constable of the third ward, later as Justice of the Peace on his fourth term at his death. Rachel appears in those columns as Mrs. A. H. Briggs: the destination of visits, the host of her daughter's wedding, the person whose absence is marked when her family travels.

The most vivid glimpse of her in the social columns comes from September 1884, when the Sunday Morning Call reported the marriage of her daughter Hannah L. to E. J. Hill of Jackson. The ceremony was held at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Briggs, No. 1 Brook Street — Rachel's home made the setting for the occasion. The company assembled at 7:30 on a Tuesday evening; the guests included the Hills from Jackson, William Archer Briggs and his wife from Stanton, and Miss Nettie Peck, also of Stanton. The presents were described as numerous and elegant, among them a silver fruit dish from the teachers and officers of the

Presbyterian and Congregational Sunday School. The newly married couple left that evening for Detroit, on their way to a lake trip before settling in Jackson. It was the kind of event whose visible success rested largely on the household that hosted it — Rachel's.

> *Battle Creek in the 1870s and 1880s was a city in active growth. Its population roughly doubled between 1870 and 1890, and it was acquiring the infrastructure of a genuine city: churches, schools, a daily newspaper, railroad connections to Detroit and Chicago, and a growing professional and commercial class. The Seventh-Day Adventist community and the Battle Creek Sanitarium under Dr. John Harvey Kellogg were giving the city a national profile in health reform, but the city Alexander and Rachel moved into in 1871 was also simply a well-connected Michigan city with a diversified economy. For a family of their background — farming roots, civic minded, Protestant — it offered the combination of community and opportunity that drew many such families from the rural townships.*

The newspaper social notes of the mid-1880s catch Rachel's household in ordinary motion. In August 1885, a notice records that Mrs. D. J. Hills and her son — Rachel's daughter Hannah and her child Walter Philo — were visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Briggs. It is a small note, the kind that papers ran as a matter of course for families of standing, but it places Rachel at the center of an active household receiving her married daughter and grandchild.

A quit claim deed filed in the Calhoun County records in March 1883 shows Rachel as a co-signatory alongside Alexander, described as "husband and wife of Battle Creek" — evidence that she had formal legal standing in property transactions, as was standard for married women in Michigan by this period.

The position Alexander held as Justice of the Peace — to which he was elected, not appointed, and which he held through four successive terms — placed the Briggs household at a particular point in Battle Creek's civic life. In Michigan in the 1880s, a JP was the lowest judicial officer in the system, but not a minor one: he heard small civil claims, tried misdemeanor cases, issued arrest and search warrants, conducted preliminary examinations in criminal matters, and performed civil marriages. The work came to his door. Litigants, witnesses, constables, and couples presenting themselves to be married would have had occasion to call at the home of a Justice of the Peace, particularly in the years before purpose-built courtrooms became standard at the ward level. The social columns of the Jackson Citizen Patriot in 1891 record "Justice A. H. Briggs and wife" being entertained by their daughter Mrs. E. J. Hills — the title by then an established part of how the community knew them both.

> *In Michigan, justices of the peace were elected by ward, typically serving four-year terms. They were not required to be lawyers — Alexander came to the office from farming and constabulary work, as many JPs of the period did. The justice's court was a layperson's court: accessible, local, and embedded in the neighborhood. Its caseload in a city ward in the 1880s would have included debt disputes between tradesmen, minor assaults, wage claims, petty theft, vagrancy matters, and the fining of Sabbath breakers. He could also administer oaths, take depositions, and record indentures. Marriage ceremonies were a regular and visible part of the JP's work — couples who chose a civil ceremony rather than a church one would present themselves to the justice, and their witnesses would follow. For the household at No. 1 Brook Street, this meant a degree of semi-public activity that the home of a private farmer or constable's wife would not have seen.*

Beyond the house itself, Rachel's world in Battle Creek would have been shaped by the Protestant congregation they belonged to and by the women's organizations that had become a significant feature of civic life in Michigan cities by the 1870s and 1880s. The Women's Christian Temperance Union was active in Battle Creek throughout this decade — the WCTU had a strong Michigan chapter, and women of Rachel's class and background were its natural constituency. The Knights Templar, to whose Battle Creek Commandery Alexander belonged and whose members conducted his funeral in 1894, was one of the main Masonic-affiliated fraternal bodies in the city; their wives and family formed part of the social world that surrounded such membership. The daughter's wedding in 1884 — held at the Briggs home, with a silver fruit dish presented by the teachers of the Presbyterian and Congregational Sunday School — reflects the denominational and civic networks in which Rachel moved as a matter of course.

> *The occupation recorded for Rachel in the Calhoun County death register is "Housekeeper" — the standard entry for married women who managed a domestic household, and not a sign of paid employment. In the context of a JP's household in a ward of a growing city, housekeeping meant something more than the term might suggest today. It meant maintaining a home that could receive official visitors and civic callers without notice; managing the domestic labor of cooking, cleaning, and laundry in a house that was also, in a limited sense, a public space; overseeing the upbringing of children while her husband's public duties drew him out of the house or brought others to the door. Rachel managed that household until her death in 1886, at which point Alexander was in his fourth term as Justice of the Peace.*

## DEATH: JULY 26, 1886

Rachel J. Lambert Briggs died on July 26, 1886, in Battle Creek, after an illness that the death registers identify as cancer. She was fifty-five years old by the dates on her gravestone, and had been living at No. 1 Brook Street with Alexander for fourteen years.

Two separate Calhoun County death registers record her death, and they conflict on both her age and the precise nature of her illness. Register 136 (Record No. 347) gives her age simply as 53 and names the cause as "Cancer in Bowels." Register 137 (Record No. 354) gives her age as 55 years, 3 months, 19 days and names the cause as "Cancer on Womb."

She was buried at Bell Branch Cemetery in Redford, Wayne County — the community her father's family had been associated with, and where Solomon Lambert himself had been returned for burial four years earlier. The gravestone inscription: "Rachel J., wife of Alex. H., 1831–1886. *Maiden name- Lambert." The asterisked notation of her maiden name is an unusual feature — a deliberate act of record-keeping that preserves the Lambert identity against the absorbing weight of the married name.

> *The decision to bury Rachel at Bell Branch Cemetery in Redford rather than in Battle Creek, where the family had lived for fourteen years, is striking. It suggests that the Lambert family connection to Livonia and its surroundings remained strong even after the Briggs had established themselves in Calhoun County. Her father Solomon had been returned there for burial in 1882; Rachel followed him four years later.*

Alexander Hamilton Briggs survived his wife by eight years. He remarried in 1887 — a little over a year after Rachel's death — to Mrs. Sophia J. Schultz. He died on July 18, 1894, of cancer of the stomach, at his residence on Brook Street, aged sixty-one. His obituary mentioned Rachel by name only in passing — "His first wife died July 26, 1886" — the standard compression of a first marriage in a notice written around the second.

## SUMMARY

Rachel J. Lambert was born in New York, grew up in Livonia Township, Michigan, married at twenty-one in her father's house, and spent the next thirty-three years following her husband's successive moves through the farming districts of Michigan before settling in Battle Creek in 1872. The documentary record names her primarily through others — daughter of Solomon Lambert, wife of Alexander H. Briggs, mother of William, Hannah, and Llewellyn

— which is the expected condition of a woman whose life was conducted within the institutions of mid-nineteenth century farming families.

What the record preserves in full is the framework of her life: a large, long-lived New England family; a marriage at the house where her father and sister were present; a daughter's wedding held at her own home fourteen years later; a gravestone that thought it worth recording her maiden name. The daughter who visited with her son in 1885, the social note placing the family in quiet suburban motion, and the quit claim deed she signed alongside her husband — these are the traces of a life conducted competently and without drama in the communities where she chose, or was able, to be.

She died of cancer in the summer of 1886, and was returned to Livonia for burial near her father's people — which is perhaps the clearest statement the record makes about where she understood herself to belong.

## SOURCES

### Vital and Legal Records

Michigan Register of Deaths — Calhoun County, 1886 — Two separate registers record the death of Rachel J. Briggs on July 26, 1886, at Battle Creek. Register 136 (Record No. 347, page 16): age 63; cause "Cancer in Bowels"; female, white, married; occupation Housekeeper; parents Solomon Lambert / Hannah Lambert; residence Deceased. Register 137 (Record No. 354, page 17): age 65 years, 3 months, 19 days; cause "Cancer on Womb"; female, white, married; birthplace Wayne Co. MI; occupation Housekeeper; parents Solomon Lambert / Hannah Lambert; residence Wayne Co. The two registers conflict on age and cause of death; both agree on date, place, parents, and occupation. See Death section for analysis.

Wayne. Vital Records 1837–1870 / Livonia Census 1850 — Marriage record: Alexander H. Briggs, 21, Livonia, and Miss Rachel Lambert, 21, Livonia; September 15, 1853, at the house of Solomon Lambert, Livonia; officiated by William A. Smith, J.P.; witnesses James Wilber and Miss Abigail Lambert; File 1853.

Quit Claim Deed — Alexander H. Briggs and Rachel J. Briggs, husband and wife of Battle Creek, to Jacob L. Kimmell; recorded March 31, 1883, Calhoun County, Michigan; William E. Warner, Register. [Page 167 of deed book.]

Power of Attorney — Heirs of Solomon Lambert, deceased, to Nicholas Briggs [and others]; recorded Wayne County, November 28, 1893. References Rachel J. Brigg[s] as heir of Solomon Lambert, late of Livonia County, deceased.

FamilySearch Profile — Rachel J Lambert; Person ID: LCZL-7MC; accessed June 2026. Aggregates birth, death, residence, and family data from multiple census and vital record sources.

## Newspaper Sources

The Battle Creek Tribune (Battle Creek, Michigan) • July 29, 1882 (social note: Mrs. A. H. Briggs and son visiting in Stanton, Mich.)

The Citizen (Battle Creek, Michigan) • April 15, 1882 (death notice: Solomon Lambert, father of Mrs. A. H. Briggs, died Saturday night, aged 90 years; body taken to Livonia for burial)

The Sunday Morning Call (Battle Creek, Michigan) • September 7, 1884 (marriage of Anna L. Briggs to E. J. Hill, at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Briggs, No. 1 Brook Street) • August 23, 1885 (social note: Mrs. D. J. Hills and son, of Jackson, visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Briggs)

Jackson Citizen Patriot (Jackson, Michigan) • August 12, 1891 (social note: Archer Briggs and Justice A. H. Briggs and wife entertained by Mrs. E. J. Hills) • May 7, 1892 (social note: Mrs. A. H. Briggs and Miss Alice Quinn visiting Mrs. E. J. Hills)

Battle Creek newspaper [title not confirmed] • July 18, 1894 (obituary: Alexander Hamilton Briggs; references first wife died July 26, 1886; remarried 1887 to Mrs. Sophia J. Schultz).

## Family and Genealogical Sources

Beavis, Marjoria Norris. Inscriptions in Bell Branch and Mount Hazel Cemeteries, Redford Township, Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan, supplemented by data showing family connections. Copyright 1939. Published by Mrs. Clarence L. Beavis, 8888 Mendota Avenue, Detroit, Michigan. BRIGGS section, Section S, Page 34: "Rachel J., wife of Alex. H., 1831–1886. *Maiden name- Lambert." Note: this is a published transcription (1939), not a primary gravestone reading, though compiled within living memory of the period.

FamilySearch — Solomon Lambert; Person ID: KVKV-MRC. Birth: 1792; death: 1882. Father of Rachel J. Lambert. Married Hannah Patten Grace, August 20, 1817, Canaan, Somerset, Maine.

FamilySearch — Alexander Hamilton Briggs; Person ID: L442-34G. Birth: December 11, 1832, Livonia; death: July 18, 1894. Provides corroborating family structure and residence data.

# MASTER INDEX OF NAMES

*Every principal subject, family member, and secondary figure named in this book, with the page on which their biography begins or where they are discussed. Bold entries mark the eighteen principal subjects.*


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